



# wethersfield

# LIFE

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VOLUME 3, EDITION 9

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See story on page 21

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### Sarah Andrea Named Branch Vice President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Wethersfield



Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut and Westchester County, N.Y. is pleased to announce that Sarah Andrea has been named branch vice president of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Wethersfield.

Andrea has been in the real estate business since 1986 and has extensive experience in residential real estate sales and management. She is also a certified general appraiser.

"We are greatly pleased to welcome Sarah to our leadership team. As a successful real estate professional, she brings with her a breadth of experience and a strong understanding of what it takes to grow and sustain a successful office," said Joe Valvano, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage of Connecticut and Westchester County, New York. "I look forward to watching our Wethersfield office continue to grow under Sarah's leadership in the months and years to come."

In addition to overseeing the day-to-day sales operations, Andrea is preparing for the grand opening celebration of the soon to be renovated, state-of-the-art office and regional training center. Andrea can be reached at the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Wethersfield at 860-563-1010

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, a leading residential real estate brokerage company in Connecticut and Westchester County, N.Y., operates approximately 51 offices with more than 2,300 affiliated sales associates serving the communities of Connecticut and Westchester County, N.Y. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is part of NRT LLC, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company. For more information, please visit ColdwellBankerHomes.com.



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# Wethersfield LIFE

**June 2017**

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## QUOTE OF NOTE:

“Our science labs are state of the art. Every other square inch of the building had to go under renovation to where it would have a 20-year life.” - *Principal Thomas Moore*

**See story page 8**

## ON THE COVER

Maurice “Moe” Cattanio, 84, has been a member of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department for the past 60 years.

Photo by Lisa Brisson  
See story page 21

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Photo by Mark Jahne

# A different perspective

## Jack McConnell sees life through the lens of his camera

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Jack McConnell sees the world in ways other people do not. That comes with looking at life for decades through the lens of a camera.

"My world is different than a lot of other people's world," he said.

The 79-year-old Wethersfield resident has been a professional photographer for much of his adult life. He has an exhibit of photos on display through June 15 at the Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre.

"At Risk: Connecticut Stone Walls & Farms" takes a close-up look at these New England icons. He wants to remind people that they are an important part of state history and are slowly but consistently disappearing.

McConnell moved to town in

1978 and lives along the Broad Street Green with his wife and business partner of 45 years, Paula McNamara. She is the manager and promoter of the family photographic business called McConnell & McNamara.

"I love it here," he said.

He worked for many years at Aetna as a documentary filmmaker. The company sent him to visually record its major insurance customers. That led to all kinds of adventures.

"I flew with the hurricane hunters," McConnell said.

He also spent time sailing aboard container ships in the North Sea off Europe. He smiled as he recalled one stormy trip when he was the only person aboard who did not become seasick.

McConnell grew up in Gorman, N.H., and took an interest in weather and clouds at an early age.

"When I got out of high school I got a job at the Mount Washington Observatory. In the winter, it was beautiful," he said. "The weather there is so violent and so beautiful."

That really increased his interest in photography. He started with a 35mm camera he borrowed from his father.

"I got hired sight unseen by an Arctic research company" because of the Mount Washington experience, he said.

He spent two years living in the Arctic while taking photos of that research company drilling thermal core samples. He has taken photos of astronauts above ground and of miners below ground digging out coal. Life has allowed him to travel all over the world and to learn at least a little bit about an amazing array of topics.

McConnell jokes that almost

everyone who has lived in Connecticut for more than a few years has at least one of his images in their home and doesn't even know it. That's because for 25 years he shot the cover photos that appeared on the Southern New England Telephone Co. phone books.

"I love what I do so much. It's a joy, even today after all these years," he said. "After all these years I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

He doesn't do commercial work anymore but focuses his efforts on fine art. CPTV has a series called "Sharing Connecticut" that features his photos. His latest interests are those old stone walls and farmers.

"We've become very friendly with the commissioner of agriculture," he said.

One of things McConnell learned is that, although their numbers have

**"I love what I do so much. It's a joy, even today after all these years."**

**– Jack McConnell**

dwindled over the years, there are 5,798 farms of five acres or more still doing business in Connecticut.

He's old school in terms of his art. He may use Photoshop to touch up his images, but that's the extent of technological involvement.

"Ninety percent of what I do, I do in the camera," he said. "It's hard to get exactly what I want. I'm not easy to deal with."

But he also knows how to make people at ease before placing them in front of his camera. That includes difficult corporate CEOs. He even managed to get the notoriously stern former general and secretary of state Alexander Haig to lighten up.

McConnell enjoys mentoring younger and less-experienced photographers. All of this is a long cry from what he expected to do for a living after high school. The plan was to become a New Hampshire fish and wildlife enforcement officer.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army as a young man and, because of his photographic skills, was attached to its famed 82nd Airborne Division. He served his time and was

never deployed overseas.

He currently has a display of Downtown Hartford images at Stackpole, Moore & Tryon, one of the oldest businesses in the city. Murals made from his photos are on exhibit at Capital Community College and the Hartford Public Library.

"For two years I've been walking up and down Park Street at all hours of the night and day taking pictures of whatever I see," he said. "One of my favorite things is to photograph people."

He added that people know him now and he has felt both safe and welcome in the bustling Puerto Rican neighborhood.

He used to own a 28-foot tug-boat in Maine and spent time on the same island as actress Kirstie Alley. They are well acquainted and he talked about how she is a down-to-earth person who organizes softball games and staffs the grill at cook-outs for her neighbors.

Since he no longer does commercial work McConnell decided to fill that part of his life by taking up the bass guitar. He jams with other



Jack McConnell, camera in hand, leans against a stone wall that is the subject of a recent series of photographs.

older folks who started playing instruments in their senior years and greatly enjoys it.

The exhibit at Heirloom Market was erected at the urging of co-owner Spiro Koulouris. The two men met several years ago when Koulouris was the general manager of Firebox restaurant in Hartford,

The market owner said McConnell's photos are perfect for a historic setting such as the Comstock Ferre building. Their texture and rustic look enhance his business. **WL**

To learn more call 860-563-6154 or visit [jackmcconnellphotography.com](http://jackmcconnellphotography.com).

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# HOORAY! for Maven

Little girl fights a courageous battle against brain cancer

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**M**aven Borgen is only in kindergarten but she is already experiencing life in a way no child should. The Charles Wright School pupil is battling an aggressive form of pediatric brain cancer.

She has been absent from school for most of the past two months because of her illness but made a special appearance May 12 for a gala outdoor dance party thrown by the entire school community. Maven and

her family arrived in a silver limousine and she dressed up in a light blue dress and tiara as a princess.

The free ride was courtesy of a Tolland-based nonprofit organization called Kids in Limos that assists children with cancer and other special needs.

There was lots of cheering, laughter, singing and dancing to celebrate her return, if only for one day. A huge roar went up from the crowd when Principal Glenn Horter announced that free Popsicles were

on the way.

May 12 was also the date of her final radiation treatment. The Borgen family visited the Science Center of Connecticut later in the day and they were scheduled to take a trip to Walt Disney World over the weekend thanks to the Make a Wish Foundation.

Her parents thanked everyone for the party and Maven briefly addressed her fellow students, telling them how much she has missed them. She was honored in February

as one of the school's "Star Students."

Her health problems began in March when she displayed what was at first thought to be Bell's Palsy, a paralysis of the facial muscles. But that didn't seem quite right so she underwent an MRI at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and doctors discovered a tumor at the base of her cranium.

A biopsy determined that the tumor was malignant and of the DIPG form of brain cancer.

A Facebook group page was

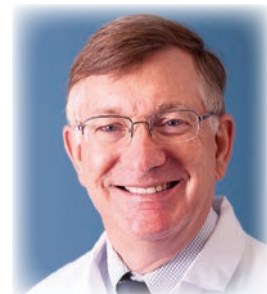


Maven's mother Melanie holds her up while her father Paul addresses the crowd.

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launched to help family and friends stay informed about her treatment. A Go-Fund-Me account was established entitled Cancer Free Life For Maven to provide the Borgens with financial support.

There was a vendor fair held April 27 that raised \$4,200 for the family. Team Maven T-shirts were sold to raise additional funds and almost everyone was wearing these shirts, mostly in purple, for the May 12 dance party.

The staff at Charles Wright bought her an iPad so that she could still participate in school lessons, visits and assemblies while absent. A stuffed monkey is keeping her seat in the kindergarten classroom warm for her hoped return.

Maven's family issued the following statement:

"DIPG has no known cure and the treatment plan set before us is experimental, which means if we pursue it, it could extend Maven's life or it may not. The medical statistics are against us, but we serve a God that is for us.

"We are putting on the armor of God and leaning on Him for strength



Students and staff at Charles Wright School surround student Maven Borgen, in light blue dress at the center.

and peace that surpasses all understanding. Please join us in praying for our little girl."

Maven hopes to visit her school again before the end of the academic year if she feels well enough to do so.

WL

Faculty, staff and students wore these T-shirts to show their support for Maven as she continues her fight against brain cancer.





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Work at Wethersfield High School is nearly complete. Officials hope to wrap up the three-year renovation and expansion project in time for the 2017-2018 academic year.

## LIFE in the classroom

### High school renovation project is approaching the end

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

It began three years ago with much fanfare and now the end is growing near. Only a few significant pieces of work still need to be done before school and town officials can officially declare the Wethersfield High School construction project complete.

The \$85 million renovation and expansion project was undertaken to bring a tired old building back to life and create state-of-the-art learning. There were a few bumps along the way but they were overcome with the help of an additional \$10 million in state funding.

"There were things that were not expected that we had to accommodate," Principal Thomas Moore said.

They included uncharted underground obstacles and asbestos discovered in flooring tiles. They also had to change the design following the Sandy Hook School shootings in Newtown for security reasons.

Original plans called for floor-to-ceiling windows in the media center. That was scrapped in favor of a more solid surface for the first six feet up from the floor that also screens those inside from view.

"We have a lot of security elements that we didn't have in the previous school," Moore said.

The last significant work will be to add screening to the roof to improve aesthetics for the homes that surround the school on three sides.

He explained that the original plan was to install a modern and green geothermal underground heating and cooling system. But that proved impractical because of various underground obstructions and pesticide pollution from the days when the property was an apple orchard.

So bulky and unsightly HVAC units were mounted on the roof instead. The Town Plan and Zoning Commission approved this change in the plans with the stipu-

lation that these units be screened from view.

Other than that, most of the remaining work is what are called punch-list items, small details that will be addressed over the summer, if not sooner. Moore praised town and school administrators for keeping close tabs on the project and doing their best to keep costs down.

"We have been very judicious in terms of our budget," he said.

Moore has said over the past three years that doing such extensive work on the school while it is still full of students, faculty and staff is akin to repairing an airplane while it is in flight. Now all are enjoying the benefits of what Town Manager Jeff Bridges has deemed the largest public works project in town history.

"In terms of new construction, we added a new gymnasium, a new library/media center, new chorus room and new band room," Moore said. "Our science labs are state of the art. Every other square inch of the building had to go under renovation to where it would have a 20-year life."

That was a requirement of the

state grant that paid for the majority of the work. The school was more than 60 years old when this project began in 2014.

"It was functional, it had great

**"Our science labs are state of the art. Every other square inch of the building had to go under renovation to where it would have a 20-year life."**

**– Principal Thomas Moore**

bones, but it was tired. It got a lot of use," Moore said.

There is a new art gallery, digital signage and visual announcements. The cafeteria was modernized as well. The fully renovated auditorium has already been utilized for dramatic productions and other community uses, such as a forum on the opioid addiction epidemic.

The seats are new and comfortable and the sound system is a marked improvement over what the

school previously had, especially in terms of the number of wireless microphones.

"It's a big deal. That's the pride of the community," Moore said.

Another benefit of the renovated school is that faculty members no longer need to share instructional space or teach off a cart rolled from classroom to classroom.

"Each teacher has a dedicated classroom," Moore said.

He praised both the faculty and the students for being flexible and adapting to all of the changes as sections of the building were sealed off for construction.

"They responded in an absolute-

ly gracious manner," he said. "During construction we had to constantly upgrade our emergency evacuation procedures."

Everything had to be brought up to 2017 building and fire codes.

"I am very pleased that this project is coming to an end. I'm very pleased with how it came out," Superintendent of Schools Michael Emmett said.

He is thrilled with the state-of-the-art educational facilities and classroom technology that resulted from the renovation. One of them is an in-house television studio.

"Throughout the phases we sometimes lost more classroom space than we gained," Emmett said. "The finished product is something to be proud of."

Emmett praised the faculty and staff for dealing with all of the disruptions and maintaining a high level of learning throughout the project. All of the athletic teams were able to continue normal operations even though other locations had to be found for home games while the gymnasiums were off line. [WL](#)



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# Changing the Face of Beauty

Students work to promote diversity in advertising

by Allie Rivera  
Staff Writer

**W**hen students at Wethersfield High School see a problem, they don't just accept it, they change it.

So when Ali Fitzpatrick, 17, Kyle Flynn, 18, and Bella Silva, 18, recognized that most models in mass media advertising lack diversity, they decided to use the resources of their Capstone project to make a difference through the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign.

Wethersfield High School began

its Capstone program this past school year, allowing students the opportunity to showcase their learning through individual projects geared toward their interests.

According to the school, "The mission of the Wethersfield High School Capstone Project is to engage each student in a personalized, self-driven learning experience that is oriented around their interests and demonstrates an application of learned skills and knowledge. The Capstone Project will enable the student to display academic and personal growth and to establish themselves as lifelong learners possessing the 21st

Wethersfield High School students Bella Silva, left, and Ali Fitzpatrick presented their Capstone project Dec. 12.

photos provided by Patti Silva

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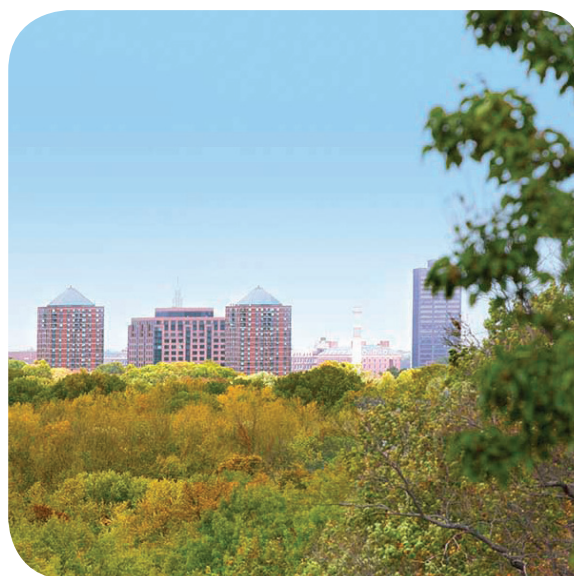
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**Changing the Face of Beauty Campaign Capstone**  
By Bella, Kyle and Ali

**“I know Bella loves to shop. Why shouldn't she see people like her in the advertisements?”**  
– Patti Silva

**Essential Question: Can we change people's perspectives on what is defined as beauty?**

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**Changing the Face of Beauty Campaign**  
By Bella, Kyle and Ali

**Seventeen-year-old Bella Silva, a senior at Wethersfield High School, hopes to continue working for the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign.**

century skills required for productive citizenship.”

Ali, Kyle and Bella presented their project in December, making Bella and Kyle the first students with special needs to complete a Capstone assignment.

“It was originally supposed to be just the two of them,” Ali, a junior, said. “I was over Bella’s house talking about the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign and I wanted to get involved. They’ve been really good about letting me be part of the project.”

Changing the Face of Beauty is a national nonprofit committed to equal representation of people with disabilities in advertising and media worldwide. The organization works to promote a more diverse array of models within marketing campaigns, a belief with which Bella, Ali and Kyle all passionately agree.

“All people are beautiful,” Bella said. “With Ali and Kyle, we’re changing the face of beauty for people of all abilities.”

The Richard M. Keane Foundation awarded a grant to purchase the curriculum from Changing the Face of Beauty that

was utilized by the students and staff.

The three students began their project by doing research on not only the campaign itself, but on how people of all abilities are represented in various forms of media. To conduct their own research, the trio set up a table in the school’s cafeteria during multiple lunch waves with surveys for their fellow students to complete.

“We asked them things like do you think that our media should represent the way our world looks every day? Would you be willing to shop at retailers that include models of all abilities in their media and advertising?” Ali said.

“We also asked them to tweet at their favorite clothing lines saying they want more representation. We got mostly really good responses on it. Overall, the response was, yes, I would love to see people of all abilities represented.”

Seeing such positive reactions to their work was encouraging.

“Even though our focus is on inclusion in the media, it showed how inclusive our own school is,” Ali said.

Armed with this data, as well

as the information they gained through research, the students next worked to create a video presentation. Bella and Kyle are both enrolled in Susan Coco's video production class and the group was able to utilize those facilities for their project.

"The hardest part was bringing all these different components together," Ali said. "I don't think we could have gotten as far as we did without the help of Ms. Coco and the other teachers in the school."

"A lot of people really believed in this and worked to help," Bella's mother, Patti Silva, said. "It's great that they were able to utilize this new technology in this state-of-the-art video production studio."

Once the video was completed, the group presented it along with all other Capstone students Dec. 12.

"They actually presented it three times that night," Silva said.

For the three girls, involved as well as Silva, the idea of inclusion in the media is a positive message they wish to convey to others.

"They are consumers, too," Silva said. "I know Bella loves to shop.



**Ali Fitzpatrick, 17, Bella Silva, 18, and Kyle Flynn, 18, from left, completed their Capstone project on the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign. Through research, student surveys and a video presentation, the group presented on the need for people of all abilities to appear in media advertising.**

Why shouldn't she see people like her in the advertisements?"

"It's such a good message," Ali added. "I think we, as a group and as a school, could do a lot to get out that message of acceptance."

In addition to the message of the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign, the group also is happy to show people that students with special needs are still capable of tack-

ling large projects such as the Capstone.

"I think it's important not only for Kyle and Bella and their classmates to see that they can do it, but for others in the school to see that they're not limited by their disabilities," Ali said. "There's still a large list of things they can do."

Silva hopes that more students with special needs will have the

opportunity to tackle these kinds of challenges in the future.

"Hopefully it will really give people an idea of what's possible and get people to raise the bar, because our kids can exceed expectations," she said.

All three students said they hope to continue being involved with the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign, Ali through advocacy and Bella through a more direct approach. She has been traveling to New York City to learn more about the modeling world and to potentially pose for the campaign.

They hope that they were able to make people understand how differences can be celebrated. Their video presentation ended with one simple message.

"If we could change the way one person thinks, then our project has been a success," they said. "Being inclusive is beautiful." **WL**

*For more information on the Changing the Face of Beauty campaign visit [changingthefaceofbeauty.org](http://changingthefaceofbeauty.org).*

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# Supporting Dollars for Scholars

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Annual charity golf outing approaches its 20th anniversary

**G**olf outings are a proven way to raise major funds for charitable operations and the annual Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars event at Wethersfield Country Club is no exception. The 20th anniversary golf outing is scheduled for Aug. 7 and is

the single largest fund-raising event for WDFS.

This event was founded in 1998 by the country club's board of governors through the leadership of then-president Richard Zanini, the former superintendent of schools. The club's co-sponsorship of the outing is part of its efforts to reach out

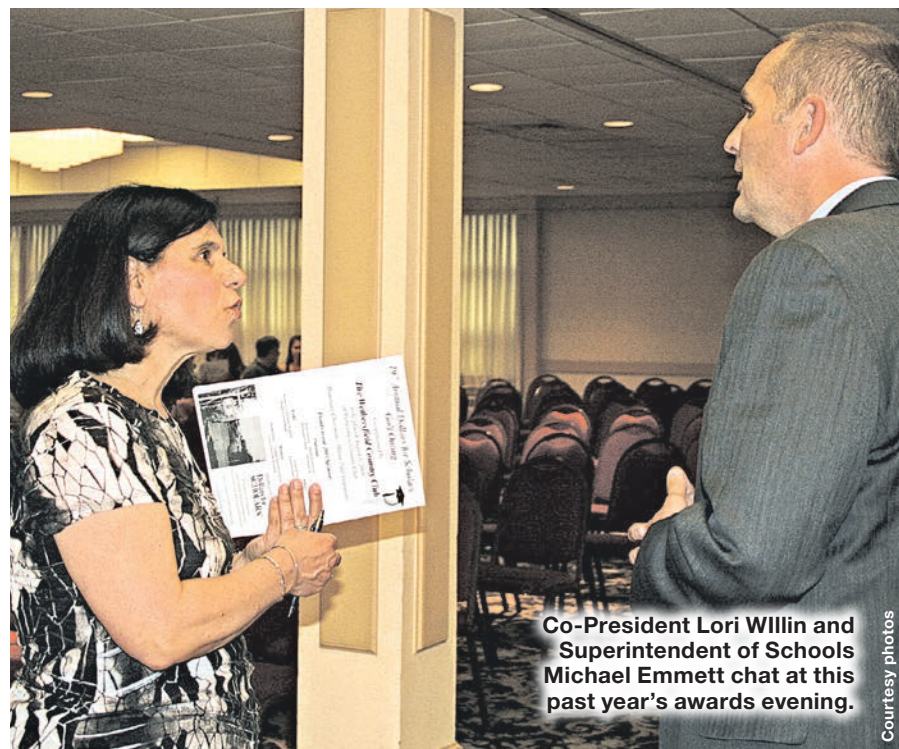
to and support the community.

Over its 19 years this day of golf has yielded more than \$182,000 in scholarships and accumulated an additional endowment of more than \$192,000 to fund future scholarships.

"We started it in 1998," Zanini

said. "We've got a very loyal following."

His wife Lucille ran the event for several years. The 10th annual tournament honored the late Dr. Philip Sehl, a local dentist who was a major figure at both the golf club and with



Co-President Lori Willin and Superintendent of Schools Michael Emmett chat at this past year's awards evening.

Courtesy photos

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With the help of our volunteers and donors, we have awarded \$122,650 to 146 Wethersfield College bound students!

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Benjamin Adams	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Kady Allen	Emerson Williams School PTO Award
Joseph Amoddio	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Sean Arcouette	Enid Kupper Memorial Award
Sean Arcouette	Neil Esposito Memorial Award
Daziyah Armstrong	Felix and Emily Babel Memorial Award
Daziyah Armstrong	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Stephanie Ayers	Speridon “Pete” Leppones Memorial Award
Holly Babineau	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Rachel Bahouth	Robert D. Burstein Memorial Award
Sarah Bean	Webb School PTO Award
Sarah Bean	Wethersfield High School Football Boosters Award
Lily Bello	Susan M. Fennelly Scholarship Award
Javier Bello	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Anthony Berry	Arthur & Helen M. Watson Memorial Award
Taylor Bradley	American Legion Auxiliary Bourne Keeney Award
Taylor Bradley	Patrick & Linda Proctor Award for Education
Victoria Brazel	M. Peter Barry Memorial Scholarship
Jack Breton	Mikey’s Place Award in Memory of Michael James Daversa
Jeffrey Bridges	Kahn Companies Award
Andre Brown	Wethersfield High School Football Boosters Award
Domenic Burby	Village Pizza Award in Memory of Apostolos Tsombanos
Ashley Burkell	Highcrest Elementary School PTO Award
Melanie Burns	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Melanie Burns	Neil Esposito Memorial Award
Yessenia Caceres	Dollars for Scholars Sunshine Laundry Award
Chianna Calafiore	Bob and Pat Sullivan Memorial Award
Anna Cannata	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards
Mariana Garcia	Pescatello Family Soccer Scholar-Athlete Award
Courtney Cerbo	The Turbine Maintenance Inc. Award
Jared Christensen	Wethersfield High School Football Boosters Award
Natalie Ciarcia	Claudette and Jim Magennis Scholarship for Kindness
Amanda Civitello	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Devyn Clark	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Devyn Clark	Charles Wright School PTO Award
Jacob Colbath	C. Frank Bayek Memorial Award
Audrey Coleman	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Audrey Coleman	Laurent and Bronya Fortin Memorial Award
Caroline Coyne	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Destiny Cruz	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Byron Cutts	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Megan Darrell	Jackie Spellman Memorial Award
Dylan DellaFera	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Molly Desrochers	Wethersfield Federation of Teachers Awards
Molly Desrochers	Charles Wright School Staff Award
Hannah Desrochers	Wethersfield High School Band Boosters Award
Evelyn DeVaux	Matthew Scott Crane Memorial Scholarship for Basketball
Louis Dillon	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Dina DiMarco	Domenica Elisa Heinemann Torrance Memorial Award
Dina DiMarco	Nancy D’Amelio Memorial Music Award
Fiona Dunn	Marcia Neville Doohen Memorial Award
Fiona Dunn	Wethersfield High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association Award in Memory of Vanessa Carbone
Kyle Ely	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
JinTao Feng	Carol F. Autorino Memorial Award
Jessalyn Figueroa	Thomas C. Milvae Memorial Award
Jessalyn Figueroa	Roger W. Wishart Memorial Scholarship
Sean Fitzgerald	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Enrique Flores	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards

SCHOLAR	AWARD NAME
Ryan Flynn	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards
Maeve Foley	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards
Joseph Galatie	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Dorris Gallari	John Miller Award-Male
Monique Gardon	Dr. Richard and Lucille Zanini Scholarship
Daniel Glendon	David Dolge Memorial Award
Wandalie Gomez	Daniel, George and Michael D’Esopo Memorial Awards
Lindsey Gordon	John Miller Award
Emilie Gray	Dr. Philip T. Sehl Memorial Award
Collin Grottke	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards
Jared Guidobono	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards
Amanda Hardy	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Kaleigh Hart	Hammer Elementary Staff Cheer Award
Bridget Hattie	Civitan Club Award
Admir Hodzic	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Lauren Hubschmitt	Harriet Milvae Memorial Award
Lauren Hubschmitt	Paul D. & Eleanor O. Standish Memorial Award
Kaitlyn Irace	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Idalis Irizarry	Friends of Wethersfield Library Scholarship Award
Matthew Jablonka	Wethersfield High School Soccer Boosters Award
Matthew Jablonka	Earle R. Munroe Memorial Scholarship Award
Sitler Jessica	Hammer Elementary PTO Award
Sitler Jessica	The Shults Family Scholarship
Emily Kallajian	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Alexander Kauffman	Richard M. Keane Memorial Award
Maggie Krawczyk	Dorothy Abbruzzese Memorial Award
Jaden Krueger	Donald F. Fote Jr. Memorial Award
Amina Kuljancic	Alan R. Murray Memorial Scholarship Award
Lynne Landers	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Lynne Landers	GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Women’s Club
Kevin Landrigan	Doris Marianella Memorial Award
Marissa Landry	Edward W. Higgins Memorial Award
Raymond Lanzano	Morris “Moe” Sanguinico Memorial Award
Nicholas Laramie	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Jordan Laske	Silas Deane Middle School PAC Award
Megan Lauzon	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Sarah Lawler	Linda F. Klapatch Memorial Award
Jeremy Levesque	Coldwell Banker Foundation Scholarship Award
Kerry Lindquist	Dollars for Scholars Founder’s Memorial in Honor of Dr. Irving A. Fradkin
Aleah Livingston	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Daniel Lopez	Peter Beaudin Memorial Award
William Maciolek	Stuart Hochschild Scholarship Award
Erica MacLean	John “Joe” and Marjory Heath Memorial Scholarship
Erica MacLean	Marie C. Perry Memorial Award
Gabriella Margiotta	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Caleigh Martin	James McHugh Memorial Award
Caleigh Martin	Wethersfield Alumni-Philip C. Cahill Memorial Award
Katherine McDonald	Winifred Piper Memorial Award
Olivia McGrath	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Ryan McNeil	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Justin Michaud	Ferguson Scholarship Award
Emma Moller	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Amiel Monasterial	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Ashley Morrell	Wethersfield Lions Club Award
Michael Murphy	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Allison Nargi	Wethersfield George D. Ritchie Soccer Club Award - Peter J. Krusiewicz Memorial Award
Aidan Nelson	Matthew Scott Crane Memorial Scholarship for Basketball
Aidan Nelson	Wethersfield Country Club Awards

SCHOLAR	AWARD NAME
Zachary Nyari	Mike Orsini Memorial Scholarship
Elvira Osmanovic	Michael Baio Memorial Award
Kate Parker	Joseph Hallisey Honor Award
Andriya Patinha	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Andriya Patinha	Brendan Murphy Memorial Award
Matthew Pazdziora	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Emma Peak	Wethersfield High School Soccer Boosters Award
Nicholas Peruta	Hughes Brothers Memorial Award
Connor Peterson	Debra Ann Gattinella-Kurys Memorial Award
Isabella Petrella	Daniel, George and Michael D’Esopo Memorial Awards
Isabella Petrella	Anthony and Elisa Gulioso Memorial Award
Tyler Piecewicz	Highcrest School Staff Award in Honor of “Leslie” Coursey
Brianna Platania	Warren and Charlotte Willsey Memorial Award
Zana Preniqi	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Madeline Raffalo	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Anthony Ragazzi	Corpus Christi Home & School Association Award
Jordan Rivera	Citizens Class of 1961
Brian Rodriguez	Oscar Wegman Memorial Awards
Briana Rodriguez	Gretchen Kelly Honor Award
Samantha Rosa	Hallisey & D’Agostino Award
Phillip Rudak	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Michael Santiago	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Christopher Santos	Social Work Scholarship Award
Nora Serrao	Citizens Scholarship Awards
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Joseph Sitarz	Citizens Scholarship Awards
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Kayla Stalph	Mikey’s Place Award in Memory of William and Joanne Huffman
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Lukas Szymeccki	Harvey and Maybelle Fuller Memorial Award
Roshanay Tahir	Patricia Pac and Paul Letendre Award
Ian Thompson	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Sabrina Torres	Richard and Susan Ellis Memorial Award
Sarina Tucker	Dolly LaCava Memorial Scholarship Award
Olivia Tyler	Bobby Sullivan Memorial Award
Samantha Urban	Emerson Williams Staff Scholarship Award
Samantha Urban	Morley School Scholarship Award
Casey Urso	Dollars for Scholars Past President’s Award
Ricardo Velez	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Christian Venditti	Thomas P. Watson, Jr. Memorial Award
Christian Venditti	Wethersfield George D. Ritchie Soccer Club Award - Paul Glasson Memorial Award
Payton Viner	Citizens Scholarship Awards
Brian Weed	Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Award
Jocelyn Wilcox	Wethersfield Country Club Awards
Samantha Zapor	Hill Family Memorial Award
Marc Zazzaro	Heimgartner Family Memorial Award
Yiqian Zhuo	Friends of Wethersfield Library Scholarship Award
Madison Zuerblis	Ruby Wegman Memorial Awards

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Dollars for Scholars.

"The whole idea was to create another avenue between the club and the community," Zanini said.

"A lot of the same people come back every year," Quirk said.

He was co-chairman of the 1969 Insurance City Open, the precursor to the Greater Hartford Open, now known as the Travelers Championship. The professional tournament was held at Wethersfield Country Club for decades before moving to the TPC River Highlands course in Cromwell.

The country club does not charge the charitable organization for the use of its course. Both men said they find the event to be fun and rewarding.

Local individuals and businesses participate through sponsorships. The public is invited to register for lunch, golf and dinner, or simply to join the festivities for dinner only.

The golf event committee solicits additional sponsorships. Former Dollars for Scholars presidents William Quirk and Tim Tuell have been co-chairmen of the past six outings.

Quirk is a former Board of Education chairman and was chairman of the 1969 Insurance City Open. Tuell is a certified



These young men and women were Dollars for Scholars scholarship recipients in 2016.

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public accountant with offices in town.

"He does a tremendous amount of work," Zanini said of Quirk.

Lori Willin and Audrey Saharek are the organization's co-presidents and Mayor Paul Montinieri, who is also the current president of the country club, is once again the honorary golf chairman.

The Wethersfield chapter of Dollars for Scholars was founded in 1975 by Dr. Sehl. He was assisted by Felix Babel, who devoted his career to the students of Wethersfield High School as a teacher, vice principal and guidance counselor.

Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars is a locally operated and supported nonprofit and tax-exempt scholarship foundation. It is affiliated with Scholarship America, a nonprofit student aid service organization.

An all-volunteer board of directors runs the local chapter. The concept is to promote the importance of education beyond high school and help students to afford the rising cost of higher education.

Trained volunteers on the awards committee score all applica-

tions anonymously. Applicants receive points for academic record, work experience, school and community service activities.

Financial need is also taken into consideration. Students can pick up applications at WHS or apply online.

Each year scholarships are awarded to high school seniors residing in Wethersfield who are pursuing post-secondary education. While most of the recipients are Wethersfield High School graduates, other eligible recipients attend private, parochial, magnet and vocational/technical high schools.

Since its founding, nearly \$3 million has been granted in scholarships by WDFS. In recent years, approximately \$120,000 has been distributed each May at a ceremony at the Pitkin Community Center. A total of \$120,300 was distributed this past year alone to 166 graduating seniors.

The major sources of funding are voluntary contributions from citizens, businesses, clubs and organizations. At the May ceremony, donors of named scholarships are invited to personally present the awards to the recipients.

The program is managed by an all-volunteer committee of citizens with little overhead. Several local businesses contribute in-kind services to defray the cost of operations. As a result, nearly 100 percent of tax-deductible contributions go directly to scholarships.

The program also receives memorial gifts and endowments that help grow the fund and currently administers 30 endowments through an investment committee. The earnings from those endowments are part of the annual scholarship fund.

A named endowment can be created for a contribution of at least \$10,000. This allows the donor to specify scholarship criteria important to the donor.

"It's a nice way to remember a loved one," Saharek said. "It seems like we're renewing; we're coming up with some fresh ideas."

She said recipients of named scholarships used to receive \$500. The amount has been increased to \$750.

"We're talking about doing some kind of celebration," Willin added.

She said new members are always welcome and expressed both surprise and a touch of frustration that, after 42 years, there are people in town who still don't know about Dollars for Scholars or its function.

"It's a nice group of people," Saharek said about those who serve the organization. "It's not political. We want to help kids."

She and Willin enjoy sharing the presidency and feel that they complement one another. **WL**

*General information regarding the golf event is available at [wethersfield.dollarsforscholars.org](http://wethersfield.dollarsforscholars.org). For information regarding sponsorships and registration call William Quirk at 860-529-4566.*

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**- Audrey Saharek**

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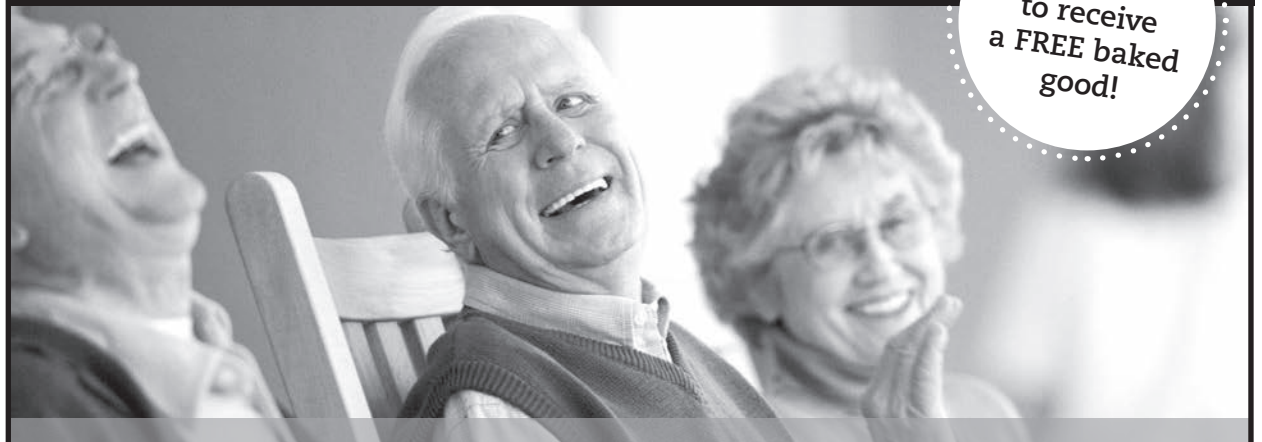
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# Small business grows

The Cove Deli is enjoying larger space along the Silas Deane Highway

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**T**he Cove Deli spent nearly seven years building a clientele at its quaint former home on Main Street in Old Wethersfield. But with that increasing business came the challenge of working in a tiny space.

So owner John Kocur Jr. decided to take a chance and uproot his restaurant and catering business, moving a mile or so to newly renovated and larger space at 282/284 Silas Deane Highway. It's a move that is already paying dividends.

"We just celebrated our seven-year anniversary on April 10. It went by fast," he said.

The first year in business was difficult because bad weather held

business down. But he survived and grew. The new location is much more visible and drawing an increasing number of people to try out his food.

"I've been in the business since I was 16," Kocur said.

He started out washing dishes at the now-closed Mediplex nursing home on Jordan Lane. That's when he got his first inside look at a com-

mercial kitchen.

Part of a close-knit Polish-American family and the oldest of three children, he helped out at home with holiday meals and made lunch for his siblings because mom and dad both worked. That led to jobs at places including the Civic Pub and Manhattan Bagel.

"Even when I was in scouts, I

helped out in the kitchen at summer camp," Kocur said.

He fondly recalled making bacon sandwiches and selling them to other children in the neighborhood. It was his first of many steps in becoming an entrepreneur.

He also used to visit golf courses to fish badly hit balls out of the ponds and sell them to golfers. He grew up in town and now lives with his wife and two sons in New Britain.

Kocur's other interest is live theater. He attended Santa Barbara City College and the University of California at Santa Barbara, earning a degree in theatrical directing. He also did volunteer work at TheatreWorks in Hartford.

**"All of our catering I can do  
in a third of the time.  
We roast our own chicken,  
we roast our own vegetables."**

**– John Kocur Jr.**



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Business is booming since the relocation in January of this year. He finds himself running every day to the Restaurant Depot in Hartford, a members-only retailer to restaurants and bars, to replenish his supplies.

"Business has improved dramatically since we moved. We had 90 to 100 people come through the door that first day. The spring and summer months are super, super busy," he said.

For example, he had six catering jobs scheduled for the following day. Many businesses call for corporate catering of their events. The Cove Deli can accommodate requests for gluten-free food and items that are safe for people with food allergies.

"We deliver all over the state," Kocur said.

Some customers walk several blocks to get their food from him. The new deli is only two buildings away from the police station, so a lot of officers are frequent customers.

"I'm thankful that we've made it this far and I'm thankful the town supports us," he said.

He estimates that he and the staff know at least 90 percent of the customers by name because there is so much return business.

Kocur is pleased that while the business added many new customers, it didn't lose any of its Old Wethersfield clientele. The current deli has a kitchen that is triple the size of the one he and his staff worked in before.

Relocating to larger space also allowed him to create two new jobs. He is effusive in his praise for their hard work.

"One of the most important things is my staff. They all bought in," he said.

His father, John Sr., a retired engineer, spends a lot of time at the deli and helped his son with the renovation work. They did as much of it by themselves as they could to save money. The father also handled the permits and other government-related matters.

Owner John Kocur Jr. and Manager Kelsea Mullaly prepare sandwiches for hungry guests.



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A photograph of Gina, a woman with dark hair, wearing a light green top. She is standing with her hands on her hips. To her right is a circular inset showing her "BEFORE" photo, where she is heavier.

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The staff of Cove Deli assemble outside their new eatery at 282/284 Silas Deane Highway. Owner John Kocur Jr., holding child, and his family stand in front.

The Cove Deli also runs the snack bar at Pine Acres and they are hoping the private swim and tennis club will be able to rebuild its badly fire-damaged building in time for the summer season.

The business offers both cater-

ing and take-out food. There are eight tables for those who wish to dine at the deli. Future plans include a patio and outdoor seating.

Kocur is posting daily specials on Facebook and Instagram and that has drawn more business to his door.

The larger kitchen also allowed him to expand the selection.

"We added a hamburger and French fry menu," he said.

That's thanks to the addition of a three-foot long griddle. All burgers are made to order from fresh ground

chuck. The Cove Deli breads its own chicken and eggplant. The new space allows him to prepare more fresh food from scratch.

"All of our catering I can do in a third of the time," Kocur said. "We roast our own chicken, we roast our own vegetables."

Another benefit is that he owns the new property and no longer needs to rent space.

Over the past two years, the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce and town Economic Development Commission have honored The Cove Deli. Individual honors included business of the year and beautification awards.

At this year's award dinner, Peter Gillespie praised Kocur and his staff for doing so well in the tiny space they used to occupy. He added that they completely gutted and renovated the entire building in which the deli is now located.

He also commended the quality of Kocur's food. Gillespie is the town's director of planning and business development. **WL**

The Cove Deli can be reached at 860-721-1200 or see [thecovedeli.com](http://thecovedeli.com).

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## Living your Best LIFE

# Why stop now?

Moe Cattanio remains a firefighter at the tender age of 84

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**M**aurice "Moe" Cattanio represents living history to the younger men and women who are members of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department. Come to think of it, everyone else in the department is



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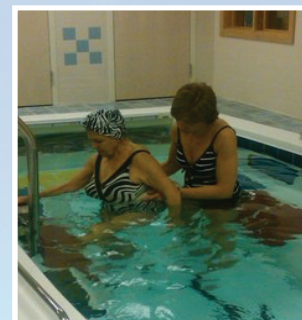
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## Living your Best LIFE

younger than him.

But that's OK with Cattanio. He remains an active member of WVFD, no longer running into burning buildings, but doing what he can to support those who do.

"I'm always willing to help, to assist in any way I can," he said. "The fire department is like a second family to me."

He is proud to continue the tradition of Wethersfield being the oldest fire department in continuous existence not only in Connecticut, but all of New England. The veteran firefighter is assigned to Station 3 on Ridge Road, not far from his home on Sunrise Terrace.

Earlier in his career he was the engineer of Engine 31, which is based in that firehouse. Capt. James Ritter, the department's public information officer, marvels at what the octogenarian still brings to the table and the lessons he is able to teach to the younger generation.

"Moe is one of the charter members of Company 3," Ritter said.

"Our first captain was Charlie Steinmiller," Cattanio added.

He remembers the names of all of the other original officers as well.

Company 3 was formed March 1, 1957. Cattanio is the last of those charter members still wearing a uniform. He grew up in the North End of Hartford and moved to the Timber Village neighborhood of town in 1956.

His childhood included witnessing the infamous 1944 Hartford circus fire. He was operating a lemonade stand in front of his father's package store a block away from the scene and watched firefighters lay hoses as they battled the blaze.

Later in life he would find his way to Wethersfield High School.

"I worked for Fuller Brush. Then I went to work for the Wethersfield Board of Education as security at Wethersfield High School," he recalled.

"When I first got there we had a lot of false alarms at the high school," he said.

A few immature students were responsible for the problem. He identified them and urged them to change their ways or he would turn them over to the police. It never came to that.

He also remembers a huge brawl that broke out at the school. He was firm when necessary but made it a point never to discipline a student in front of others.

Cattanio is familiar with police work, too. He served as a supernumerary officer during the tenure of retired chief T. William Knapp.

"My uncle, back in 1945 or 1946, was an original member of the Kensington Fire Department," he added.

Cattanio enjoyed visiting that uncle and that's where he first developed an interest in the fire service.

"He would take me to the firehouse. I guess it got into my blood," he said with a smile.

There is no shortage of memories from his lengthy career. Cattanio once received an award for doing everything he could to save a woman's life.

"It was a house fire. I got there immediately," he recalled. "I was involved in the prison riot, too."

That was in 1961 when the state's maximum-security prison was located on the bank of the cove. The fire department was called upon to help put down the insurrection.



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## Living your Best LIFE

Years later he responded to a major chemical leak at the local NAMCO facility and as part of mutual aid to a pair of major fires in Rocky Hill, one at the Puritan Furniture warehouse and the other at an apartment complex near the town line.

"That apartment fire in Rocky Hill was huge," he said.

It took several days to fully extinguish the blaze and matters were complicated by below-zero weather.

Along the way, there have been countless other fires, car crashes and other emergencies. One of his beliefs is that firefighters should initially treat every emergency call as if it's a major incident, at least until they arrive on scene and can assess the situation.

Cattanio said training is much better, and more extensive, today than in the past. He enjoys his role as an unofficial mentor and follows the practice that the way one earns respect is by giving respect.

"I tell the young kids you're going to learn through experience," he said.

Ritter said the younger firefighters know that they can always count on Cattanio for sound advice. He serves as an unofficial mentor and is credited with encouraging several people to join the department.

"Moe is an example that people follow,"

**"He's awesome.  
He's the life of  
Company 3.  
He's the soul of  
Company 3."**

**- Capt. Gary Sharkevich**

Ritter said. "Moe's story is one of complete public service. When he talks, people listen."

Cattanio is married and the father of two

grown children. He credited his wife and children with always being supportive of his volunteer efforts, even if it meant he was missing holiday dinner or getting out of bed in the middle of the night to respond to an emergency.

Most of his time with the fire department now is spent helping with traffic control, filing reports and bringing cold water to calls. It doesn't take long for firefighters in full gear to become dehydrated while working a scene.

"If it's in my area, I'm there right away," he said.

Gary Sharkevich, the captain at Company 3, first met Cattanio when he was a student at Wethersfield High. He is one of the many young men whom the former security guard encouraged to pursue a life in the fire service and works as a career firefighter in Hartford in addition to his volunteer commitment in town.

"He's awesome. He's the life of Company 3. He's the soul of Company 3," Sharkevich said.

"He's old school. He's got the stories from back in the day," he added. "He's always got your back, always looking out for you." **WL**

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# Chamber of commerce presents annual awards at dinner

**I**t was a festive evening May 10 in the packed dining room at the Wethersfield Country Club as the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner and awards night. The chamber celebrated a year of numerous successful activities including its Fireworks show at the cove, BBQ and Beer, Holidays on Main, State of the Town breakfast and its signature event, the Cornfest.

Nine awards were presented to people or businesses that have made significant contributions to the community over the past 12 months. They are:

- Business of the Year – Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre
- Chamber Member of the Year – Cristina Orsini Harris of D'Esopo Funeral Chapel
- Town Beautification – The Cove Deli
- Town Employee of the Year – Heather Vargas of the Department of Physical Services
- Town Volunteer of the Year – Chris Traczyk, chairman of the Tourism Commission
- Public Safety Award (Fire) – Asst. Fire Chief Mark Guerrero
- Public Safety Award (Police) – Officer Kevin Lawless
- Educator of the Year – Michael Maltese, director of athletics and assistant principal at Wethersfield High School
- Presidents Award – Village Pizza

The master of ceremonies was chamber President Todd Lamore of Lamore's Gulf Station. **WL**



The Chamber Member of the Year Award went to Cristina Orsini Harris of D'Esopo Funeral Chapel.

Photos by Mark Jahne



Owner John Kocur Jr. and Manager Kelsea Mullaly took home the Town Beautification Award for The Cove Deli.



Chris Traczyk was honored with the Town Volunteer of the Year Award.



The Town Employee of the Year Award went to Heather Vargas of the Department of Physical Services.



Michael Maltese, director of athletics and an assistant principal at Wethersfield High School won the Educator of the Year Award.



Asst. Fire Chief Mark Guerrero is this year's winner of the Public Safety Award for the fire department.



Spiro and Julia Koulouris, owners of the Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre, were on hand to receive the Business of the Year Award.

# Wethersfield Dental Group opens its doors

by Allie Rivera  
Staff Writer

**R**esidents have a new place in town where they can access professional dentistry services. The Wethersfield Dental Group recently cut the ribbon for its new facility on Town Line Road.

"It's nice to be back here in the community," Dr. Ukti Phadnis told the crowd at her grand opening. "I love the support I'm getting from Wethersfield."

She has practiced dentistry for

own practice, you get the freedom to practice the way that you want to."

That means creating a space where people of all ages feel comfortable going for their dental care.

"I wanted it to be a very family oriented practice," she said. "We can work with anyone from age 2 to 102."

Family has always been an important part of Phadnis's life. Growing up in India, she moved with her family to Danbury in the 10th grade and has remained a state resident ever since, attending the University of Connecticut for both her undergraduate degree and dental school.

"I always knew I would go into a medical field," she said.

She took the entrance exam for both medical school and dental school. Phadnis decid-

ed to pursue dentistry, a career also chosen by her father, brother, aunt and some cousins.

"I have a dentist for every tooth in the family," she said with a laugh.

When the time came to open her

practice, she found a location at 55 Town Line Road and immediately knew it would work. The space was previously a dental office and, although Phadnis brought in new equipment and made some changes, it was well-equipped for use. She officially opened Dec. 14 and the ribbon cutting took place in April.

"It just fit well," she said. "The community has been very nice, and being just off the Silas Deane Highway, I don't think you can go wrong."

Phadnis provides comprehensive care to the whole family, addressing typical procedures such as cleanings as well as cosmetic and implant dentistry and oral cancer screenings.

"We do full comprehensive care," she said. "We address the effects of oral health on the body and the body on oral health."

Ensuring proper dental health means addressing care through prevention, a message she hopes to convey to her patients.

"I don't want to see you once every three years when a tooth bothers you," she said. "The more you educate the patient, the more you're

able to prevent problems instead of having to fix them later."

Along with preventive care, the Wethersfield Dental Group offers Invisalign, crown and bridge and some veneer treatments, along with cleft lip and palette surgery. Those treatments have been especially meaningful for Phadnis, who recalled one patient in particular who was grateful for the work.

"She came back and told me, 'I was able to smile in my wedding because of you,'" she recalled.

Being able to help people is a large part of what motivates Phadnis in her work each day. Her practice offers its own in-office dental plan to provide affordable dental care for families and individuals who don't have insurance.

"It's a unique way of preventing problems," she said. "I wanted to make it affordable for people. I feel that the basic maintenance visits should be something that people are able to get."

For a \$350 enrollment fee, members receive two routine exams, one routine cleaning, one emergency exam and X-ray and are eligible for

**"I have a dentist for every tooth in the family."**

**- Dr. Ukti Phadnis**



six years, most recently at Newington Family Dental. Phadnis said that opening her own practice has always been the ultimate goal.

"There's so many different styles of dentistry," she said. "With your

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For those who do have insurance, the practice is offering a free custom whitening.

"It's those little things that we do that matter to people," Phadnis said.

Those who are unsure of their insurance situation are able to get help from the team at Wethersfield Dental Group.

"We'll help with any insurances that they have," front desk coordinator RoseAnn Allen said. "We want them to choose us as their dental family and we will work with them to figure it out."

Allen has been working in dental offices since she was 19 and has a great deal of experience in coordinating insurance work and helping in the exam room.

"I wear many hats here," she said. "Without all of us pulling together, it wouldn't work."

Phadnis is happy to see that people are beginning to come to see her.

"I think the biggest compliment you can get as a dentist is having people refer family and friends," she said. "We're not the drill and fill type of dentist. We want people to feel comfortable coming in to see us." **WL**

*Wethersfield Dental Group is located at 55 Town Line Road Suite 100. It can be reached at 860-400-3007 or online at [wethersfelddentalgroup.com](http://wethersfelddentalgroup.com).*



Dr. Ukti Phadnis, center, was excited to open her dental practice in Wethersfield at her official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Shown are, from left, Wethersfield Town Manager Jeff Bridges, Wethersfield Town Council Member Tony Martino, Dr. Ukti Phadnis, family member Mangesh Phadnis, Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Leslie Civitello and Wethersfield Town Planner and Economic Development Manager Peter Gillespie.

Photo by Allie Rivera

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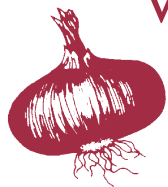
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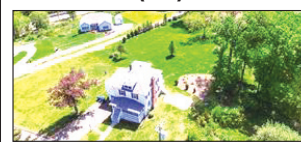
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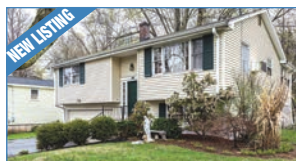
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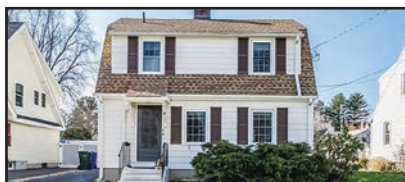


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# They're tops in the classroom

The following students were named to the honor roll at Wethersfield High School.

## Grade 12

### High Honors

Kady Allen, Rachel Bahouth, Victoria Brazel, Jack Breton, Andre Brown, Chianna Calafiore, Devyn Clark, Andrew Console, Caroline Coyne, Megan Darrell, Evelyn DeVaux, JinTao Feng, Enrique Flores, Kyle Flynn, Dorris Gallari, Lindsey Gordon, Kee Doh Htoo, Lauren Hubschmitt, Abigail Hulk, Idalis Irizarry, Matthew Jablonka, Kelly Lamo, Lynne Landers, Timothy Laurito, Sarah Lawler, Kerry Lindquist, Justin Michaud, Matthew Michaud, Amiel Monasterial, Ashley Morrell, Emma Peak, Connor Peterson, Brianna Platania, Jessica Roberts, Samantha Rosa, Christopher Santos, Andrew Sanzaro, Nora Serrao, Hsa Lah Shee, Gabriela Silva, Aidan Sitler, Jessica Sitler, Jacklyn Snide, Bianca Tata, Sarina Tucker, Samantha Urban, Ricardo Velez, Christian Venditti, Shaelyn Way, Brian Weed, Jocelyn Wilcox, Samantha Zapor, Yiqian Zhuo and Madison Rose Zuerblis.

### Honors

Joseph Amoddio, Daziyah Armstrong, Stephanie Ayers, Holly Babineau, Lily Bello, Anthony Berry, Taylor Bradley, Jeana Bruno, Melanie Burns, Yesenia Caceres, Anna Cannata, Mariana Carcia, Jacob Colbath, Audrey Coleman, Destiny Cruz, Avishek Das, Molly Desrochers, Jessalyn Figueroa, Maeve Foley, Zachary Forrest, Christian Gilly, Wandalie Gomez, Emilie Gray, Collin Grottke, Kaleigh Hart, Bridget Hattie, Irmel Huric, Kaitlyn Irace, Joel Jimenez, Emily Kallajian, Stephanie Kallicharan, Alexander Kauffman, Matthew Keefe-Stefanik, Kathleen Kerekes, Maggie Krawczyk, Marissa Landry, Jordan Laske, Megan Lauzon, Jeremy Levesque, Aleah Livingston, Ian Luna, William Maciolek,aleigh Martin, Jonathan McAlister, Katherine McDonald, Olivia McGrath, Morgan McMahon, Benjamin Milano, Emma Moller, Allison Nargi, Aidan Nelson, Amy Oliveira, Angel Pagan, Kate Parker, Matthew Pazdziora, Hannah Pearce, Luis Perez, Braden Plant, Zana Preniqi, Madison Raposo, Phillip Rudak, Joyce Santos, Steven Santos, Alyssa Schroll, Naomi Shiff, Trisha Signorello, Richard Sipala, Katherine Skowronek, Angela Sollima, Austin Stefano, Emily Swanson, Roshanay Tahir, Morgan Tanguay, Sara Trueax, Olivia Tyler, Casey Urso, Payton Viner, Frances Zelez and Jillian Zuidema.

## Grade 11

### High Honors

Ahmed Alihodzic, Matthew Amoddio,

Rachael Amoruso, Shawn Bertucio, Ashley Bilello, AnnaJane Brown, Rachel Bugella, Ling Chi, Isabel Correa, Stephanie DeCarli, Hannah Delvecchio, Brian Diaz, Joseph DiCioccio, Brendan Dowd, Thomas Dowd, Jacob Driscoll, Destiny Egnew, Julia Feliciano, Jessica Garofalo, Lily Gaunt, Amanda Gilbert, Brian Heavren, Jonathan Hopkins, Nathan Hrdy, Gabriela Interian, Samantha Johnson, Conor Keane, Caroline Kennedy, Ezekiel Latiff, Samuel Lemaire, Caroline Logan, Juliana Mandile, Malena Mandile, Heather Mayo, Maria Moldovan, Marlena Monroe, Emma Murray, Kaitlyn O'Brien, William Odell, Andrew Pace, Micaela Pereyra, Chelsea Pinchera, Sara Puglielli, Olivia Purinton, Erin Reardon, Jane Rumley, Brianna Santilli, Rachel Sargis, Isabella Schroeder, Tyler Stout, Abigail Sullivan, Alexandra Talarczyk, Alex Tawrel, Nicole Teti, Megan Tonucci, Eric Torres, Amanda Tougas, Garrett Tougas, Victoria Whitaker, Trinita White, Rachel Wilson, Karolina Wlaz and Emma Zaleski.

### Honors

Lexarie Acosta, David Adams, Elena Anderson, Grant Anderson, Nicholas Arcata, Emma Augustine, Brendan Barry, Sabrina Berry, Alexander Bielak, Safiye Boluk, Austin Bovino, Eric Bucknam, Rebecca Buonopane, Gavin Burns, Benjamin Cholewa, Julia Chrostowski, Liam Collins, Joshua Cronkhite, Isabella Croteau, Justin Cruz, Jessica Darby, Aporupa Das, Odalys DeJesus, Raymond DeMonte, Jennifer Denz, Rossano DiGiacomo, Maria DiMattia, Alexandra Dizes, McKayla Dreger, Jordenn Edwards, Julianna Fanelli, Adnan Fejzic, Alison Fitzpatrick, Blake Fulton, Ismael Garcia, Victoria Goodman, Alessandro Gulino, Aldin Handzic, Kenneth Harrison, Tatiana Henry, Camden Johnson, Brian Kallajian, Alexis Kallicharan, Petrit Kerici, Devon Kleeblatt, Ethan Krol, Katrina Kurpaska, Julie Lamore, Elena Lapa, Irene Laramie, Timothy Malave, Katia Malinguaggio, Hannah Martin, Patrick McGuane, Ryan McOmber, Mariah Merchant, Maya Mulholland, Lexi Munger, Atlee Myers, Mariia Nekhai, Michelle Nguyen, Anna O'Neil, Filip Ogniewski, Julian Encarnacion, Jessica Pratt, Jacqueline Reategui, Samuel Reichelt, Emma Rocheleau, Karen Rodriguez, Juliana Rosa, Mirnes Sabanovic, Luke Saharek, Ryan Sanzo, Veronica Sardaryan, Kaitlyn Sargis, Joseph Scheuermann, Sarah Scott, Brenna Shannahan, Jason Sharp, Ryan Skelly, Tessa Slesinski, Nathaniel Sommers, Will Stabach, Maura Stewart, George Stoughton, Kaleigh Sullivan, Abigail Sywenkyj, Wing Sze, Kassandra Torres, Lucas Torres, Mason Torres, Chloe Troy, Victoria Tucker, Vanessa Valle, Samantha Vargas, Mallory Walker, Haley Weinberg, Aniela Zawisza and Olivia Zurzola.

## Grade 10

### High Honors

Mark Accarpio, Zoe Adams, Jordan Adduci, Aiden Ademi, Dino Alihodzic, Hope Allen, Chase Anderson-Birdsall, Allison Appel, Justin Biraci, Alec Capasso, Natalie Casertano, Kacia Claffey-Hesseltine, Danielle Colbath, Cenia Diluvio, Thomas Drake, Brianna Dreger, Cameron Elliott, Kathryn Galusha, Sarah Gordon, Lucyne Grigorian, Anthony Guerrero, Jeremy Halla, Liam Harrington, Luke Johnson, Brian Kanya, Jared Kauffman, Gabrielle Klementon, Agron Konjusha, Leah Lin, Brendon Mansaku, Lauren McAlister, Emily McKenna, Tanya Messenger, Anthony Milluzzo, Gaura Mishra, Kenan Mujic, Nicole Murphy, Sydney Ouellette, Madison Patkoske, Alyssa Pearce, Jake Peckrul, Jenna Sanzo, Jason Scalora, Isabella Scandura, Masala Solinis, Jaedyn Stanescki, Katherine Stearley, Aidan Stec, Kaitlyn Swoverland, Rachel Vasel, Elizabeth Veilleux, Connor Wallowitz, Owen Weaver, Haley Wheelchel, Mei Qiong Xue and Sophia Zagaja.

### Honors

Matthew Accarpio, Ajla Ahmetovic, Vanessa Ajodhi, Grace Amoruso, Ashley Anduha, Alec Arnold, Kate Ayers, Mark Bagdasarian, Ajalon Brereton, Mairead Breton, Joshua Chamberland, David Colon, Cameron Corazzo, Kayla Cruz, Austin DellaFera, Tyler DellaFera, Olivia Destefani, Matthew Domonkos, Afton Dyjak, Craig Elliott, Annisa Ferguson, Liam Flynn, Auna Foster, Abigail Francis, Eden Aguiar, Deandre Garib, Sofia Giarratana, Katherine Ginter, Amayia Giscombe, Riley Grenier, Jordan Griffin, Kailey Guancha, Zeeshan, Rachel Hall, Shannon Hattie, Nicholas Hetherman, Holden Hoon, Matthew Iallonardo, Madeline Johnson, Alexander Jones, Kylie Judson, Anna Kallajian, Arber Karamanaj, Ivan Kaurin, Megan Keleher, Anthony Ky, Brooke Kycia, Nathan Labbe, Cassandra Landry, Matthew Laurie, Yasmin Lazu, Jacob Lepore, Tatum Lewis-Holcombe, Gavin Lippitt, Cheyenne Lueken, Joshua Malizia, Michael Manousos, Patrick Martin, Madison Merchant, Logan Miller, Emma Moore, Lejla Muskic, Erin Nargi, Jenasis Ortiz, Sasha Parmanand, Marina Perno, Dorian Prevalla, Emily Raffalo, Nicholas Riccio, Erin Robles, Brenda Rodriguez, Raul Rodriguez, John Schiavone, Jacob Schlapfer, Chloe Sisson, Caleb Skowronek, Mackenzie Stevens, Shantall Teran, Ariana Tessier, Mia Tougas, Samuel Veilleux, Angelica Velez, Lucas Villagra, Shun Wong, Christina Yanaros and Erion Zeka.

## Grade 9

### High Honors

Arden Adamo, Alexis Almada, Basel Altows, Leah Ayers, Alina Baby, Matthew Bagdasarian, Hailey Baranowski, Julia

Baroni, Sydney Bowers, Stephanie Breglio, Katherine Bridges, Erin Brush, Krisztina Buzas, Sarah Carmel, Kayla Condon, Grace Conneely, Isabella Costa, Kelsey Crandall, Alicia DiPaola, Sean Donahue, Michael Dunn, Jessica Garcia, Morgan Grabowski, Mia Healy, Christopher Heavren, Alison Xue Ho, Kristina Hoda, Braedon Hook, Daniel Jimenez, Alden Johnson, Clarence Jubac, Dylan Kallicharan, Nikolas Kallicharan, Abigail Keane, Megan Kelleher, Alice Kelly, Zoe Kleeblatt, Rei Koni, Ryan Koplin, Zerina Korkutovic, Frederick Krol, Aaron Ky, Cameron Ky, Elizabeth Laczewski, Hayden Laske, Kiara Lazu, Lillian Lee, Lauren Lesser, Logan Lichtatz, Matthew Lipka, Audrey Mainville, Elizabeth Malicki, William Malizia, Joseph Meredith, Chase Miller, Summer Mitchell, Meaghan Murphy, Clarissa Nock, Morgan Paileilani, Grace O'Donnell, Cameron Partridge, Hemil Patel, Maria Pena, Trevor Pieciewicz, Luciano Quagliaroli, Emma Rakus, Atif Raza, John Rumley, Eric Scheuermann, Amina Shakeel, Connor Stahl, Lauren Strong, Hannah Sullivan, Kelsey Tranberg, Nicholas Ursini, Antonia Vardal, Olivia Washington and Grace Ann Weaver.

### Honors

Alexander Amado, Nicholas Babineau, Owen Barnett, Samantha Bassell, Sarah Bello, Ryan Berasi, Kaitlynn Bertucio, Alexander Bobin, Max Bongiovanni, Waverly Brown, Brandon Bukowski, Justin Burchell, Stefania Calafiore, Amanda Carmel, Joseph Cassineri, Citlalli Chavez-Aguilar, Rachel Cloutier, Joseph Coleman, Michaela Collins, Serena Console, Robert Cook, Abigail Dupont, Kyle Edman, Nathaniel Estifanos, Michael Fanelli, Emily Fazzina, Kaitlyn Fischer, Brendan Flynn, Brianna Garcia, Kathleen Gilland, Emmett Gionfriddo, Gabriel Gomes, Julian Gonzalez, Jillian Gray, Michelle Guerard, Nicole Gwynn, Mariela Interian, Michael Irace, Neil Jitlall, Emily Karwic, Caroline Klinger, Aung Ko, Brittney Lanne, Mary LeConche, Abigail Lemaire, Nathan Loura, James Luiz, Charlotte Magel, Yulduz Mamedova, Taylor McGeachy, Evan McNeice, Paige Melillo, Meaghan Merchant, Ava Minichino, Robert Misseri, Kieran Moller, Olivia Morais, Nicole Nocida, Kerianne O'Brien, Samuel Odell, John Orsini, Connor Pace, Katerina Pantaleo, Nainishaben Patel, Mya Pellegrino, Serf Piedrasanta, Katherine Pierce, William Pilkington, Camila Porras, Ryan Prado, Abigail Riberio, Isaac Rios, Jacob Rivera, Ryan Salemi, Isabella Samse, John Shamo, Matthew Silver, Tanner Slesinski, Samantha Strong, Rebecca Sullivan, Kendrick Thayer, Zane Tinker, Kevin Torres, Zaira Vasconcelos, Kassandra Vazquez-Felipe, Carsyn Viner, Christine Vittner-Ouellette, Jake Whitaker, Tyler James Wolf and Mark Zocco. **WL**

## Celebrating Arbor Day



Horter Greets Kids

Charles Wright School conducted its annual Arbor Day celebration in the school courtyard the afternoon of April 28. Artwork based upon the theme of the day was posted on the school walls.

Principal Glenn Horter gets the students warmed up for activities that included music, poetry and more.

Student Daniel Nerexna led the assembly as the specially appointed principal for the day.



Charles Wright

Botanist Charles Wright, the school's namesake, made a special appearance to talk about the importance of trees and plants. He was portrayed by fifth grade teacher Vic Setaro.

Music teacher Ted Griswold is joined by students Bailey Cox on saxophone and Andrew Strong on trumpet.



Horn Trio



David Nerexna



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**Editor's Note:** This month, LIFE begins a new segment of our publications dedicated to highlighting the thoughts and ideas of our younger readers. In the pages that follow, students from the Wethersfield Public Schools were asked to share through writing details of activities taking place in their schools, as well as their perspective on their lives. Look for these pages every month to hear more "Kids Voices."



## Webb School Stereotyped

By Allie Lesser

**H**ave you ever enjoyed something that was not typically for your gender? Has it felt funny? It shouldn't. It's not like you're not allowed to like something if typically it's for the opposite gender.

We need to stop stereotyping boys and girls. Firstly, we need to stop stereotyping so girls and boys can decide what they like individually. Secondly, we need to stop stereotyping so stereotypes don't impact what they can later become.

Finally, we need to stop stereotyping so kids can enjoy something without being bullied. Do you know what our words are doing to children?

One reason we need to stop stereotyping so your kids can decide what they like individually. On Newsela, Target explains that "who are we to say what a child's individual expression is?" This shows kids may like what supposedly is thought to be for the other gender but not feel comfortable because it not typical to like it.

Anybody can like anything, it just depends on their personality. According to "Time for Kids," "This holiday season stores will be stocking their shelves with female super-

hero figures, dolls with disabilities, and characters with a range of skin tones." Now you can see that this gives girls a chance to like something typically for boys and allow them to feel comfortable with liking it.

Another reason we need to stop stereotyping is so it doesn't decide what your kids will later become. Asian development blog writes, "No mama, I can't become a prime minister because I am a girl." This is sad to hear. Just because she is a girl, she doesn't believe she can do something of the other gender and thinks it's not in her zone and not "what girls are supposed to do."

Doesn't this little girl make you think she is being held back from something she cares about? We need to think about others feeling and think how gender stereotyping is affecting them. Instead of giving our girls dolls who are dressed in skirts and heels, let's give them dolls dressed in a doctor's outfit. That can change their mindset.

Most importantly, we need to stop stereotyping boys and girls so your kids can enjoy something without being bullied. According to the article gender stereotyping leads to bullying, "Yesterday my 4 year old wore her waterproof slip-on shoes for boy or girl to school (they are black Timberland moccasins) and she told me this morning, "The girls would not play with me yesterday because they said I was wearing boys shoes, can you please put spar-

kly shoes on me?"

Don't you see that this little girl is getting bullied just because she's a little different? Doesn't that make you sad inside? It makes me want to do something. This shows that kids are getting bullied because of stereotypes.

There is an invisible list of boys "stuff" and girls "stuff" and you only fit into one list. It shouldn't be like that. There should be one list with everything so that kids don't get bullied.

How would you feel if your daughter was bullied because she was playing with Star Wars figures? If she loves it, don't let that stop her from doing the thing she loves. She is changing just so other people are happy, but you should only change if it makes you happy.

In conclusion, we need to stop stereotyping your boys and girls. This is so your children can decide what they like individually. So it doesn't impact what they will later become and so kids can enjoy something without being bullied.

We need to finish what Target started. We need to stop affecting the lives of little kids. And make a difference. Some people might think that gender stereotyping is no big deal or that it's "gone," but really it is affecting a lot of kids and the more we try to stop the separation of boys and girls, the better.

What you can do matters. Every bit counts. We can't let us stand in the way of their lives. Do something.



## Webb School Kids are overpitched

Kids are overpitched

By Nick Farrelly

**T**here are many injuries in sports. Most people zoom in on concussions as the most important sports injury. But an even more important sports-related injury is shadowed by it. Serious damage is happening to baseball players' arms because they are being over-pitched.

That means that players are pitching more than they are supposed to. This is a problem for kids and Major League Baseball players. Coaches tend to leave their kids in too long and finally this injury could affect more than pitching. How can we stop this epidemic?

Even though this is about pitching, this arm damage could affect more than just pitching. Most kids who are over pitched are affected by pitching, but some more serious damage could affect everyday things. Pretend you are one of those kids pitched too much and you were doing your homework, only to find that you can't hold a pencil the way you used to.

You try to write and all you see on the paper are things that barely look like letters. Just because not

## Kids Voices

many people have this problem doesn't mean it's not important.

This amount of over pitched kids is growing. This is a serious concern to baseball players' health. If we can stop this amount from growing you could help players like these who can't do everyday things the same and help prevent this epidemic from happening again.

Mostly this problem happens to younger kids, but even the MLB has this epidemic going on. According to Fox Sports in an article by Dieter Kurtenbach, he claims that Dodgers manager Dave Roberts took Ross Stripling out during a no-hitter. Everyone hated Roberts for taking Stripling out. But all he was doing was looking out for his future.

Stripling had thrown 100 pitches and had Tommy John surgery the year before and now he was probably two pitches away from having it again. Tommy John surgery happens to about 20 professional pitchers a year and this number is outrageously growing on a yearly basis.

This shows that no matter what the circumstance, your coaches are always looking out for you. But does the same thing happen in Little League? No. Usually kids over pitch because the coaches leave them in

too long. There is a limit of how many pitches you can throw, depending on your age.

Although there is a pitching limit, the coaches tend to let their pitchers go over the limit because they are good pitchers. This can be resolved by counting the pitches and making sure coaches don't over pitch the kids. Unfortunately, kids get blamed for over pitching, when you really should be blaming the coaches.

If the coaches are more careful pitching their kids, they won't get blamed for the damage they have caused. An article by former Cubs pitcher Steven Ellis clearly states that if kids didn't throw so many practice pitches, they would be less likely to have elbow/arm problems. Another report by Ellis on youth-pitching.com claims that studies show 49 percent of youth pitchers will suffer from elbow or shoulder injuries in 2016.

I don't know about you, but this is shocking me that coaches would want to ruin a kid's arm just because they want to win a game. Think: do you really want to be the coach that ruins a kid's dreams of being a MLB pitcher because you let them pitch too much?



### Webb School Teen Activism

by Lindsay Rhodes

As you can see, kids being over pitched could cause serious damage to the arm. MLB players deal with these problems, coaches should be held responsible for over pitching, and this damage could affect more than pitching. This is a serious problem for kids and MLB players.

The next time you possibly see this happening, say something. Little words can make a big difference. How would you feel if your child couldn't write the same because he pitched too much? How will you prevent this from happening?

**H**ave you ever been faced with a problem? Have you ever had tough times in your life? Well, many teens did, too. Many of them want to make a change. They got their "fuel" from facing tough times in their life.

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## Kids Voices

They protest, fight, and make a difference.

Well, those people are called teen activists. Some examples of teen activists are Malala Yousafzai fighting against the Taliban, Iqbal Masih, who was fighting against child labor, and Alex Libby, who has been stopping bullying. Well, they all faced hard times. Hard times that helped them make a difference.

Malala faced tough times. She saw and heard gunshots, saw beloved schools burn, and saw her education ripped away. The terrorist group called the Taliban caused all of those violent things. The Taliban protested against women going to school. They were scared women would have power over men.

But Malala Yousafzai didn't let the Taliban get in her way. After hearing and seeing violent things by the Taliban, Malala decided she couldn't wait anymore. She couldn't wait for someone else to make a change. Her courage was a lot from the principal of her school, her own dad, Ziauddin Yousafzai.

Ziauddin Yousafzai once said, "At night, our fear is strong, but in the morning, in the light, we find our courage again." He also said to Malala, "I will protect your freedom Malala. Carry on with your dreams." Malala's dream was to help women and girls have and education.

When the Taliban heard about her protesting against them, they found her and shot her. Luckily, Malala survived and kept on protesting. This story proves that Malala's tough times fueled her to become an activist and make a difference.

Another example of a teen activist who faced tough times that fueled their reason to fight is Iqbal Masih. Iqbal lived in Pakistan. Iqbal, at age 4, was sold to a carpet-making company by his parents for an equivalent to \$12 U.S. for the reason that Iqbal's parents were in poverty. Iqbal was forced to work every day.

Then, at age 10, he escaped. After he escaped, he protested against child labor. He traveled

many times to give speeches. Then, just after his trip to the United States of America, he was back in Pakistan and got shot. Iqbal did not survive. He died at the age of 12.

But during his tough times he had an idea and it gave him courage to fight against child labor. And we will remember him by this quote: "Children should have pens in their hands, not tools."

The last teen activist I'm going to be showing you is Alex Libby. He was in a tough spot and took his pain to courage. Alex was bullied almost every day on the bus. The bullies would steal Alex's possessions, hurt Alex, and pretty much torture him. Alex just was quiet about. He says that he didn't feel the pain or hurt. All he felt was depression.

His mom quotes, "I would lay with my husband at night and, you know, what if he decides he doesn't want to be here anymore?" Then on the playground Alex's sister got punched in the face. Another quote from Jackie Libby is, "One side of her

face was black and blue and swollen." That was when the Libby family decided to move.

Then, at the new school, Alex felt more included, and he had many friends. Now he gives advice to kids who are being bullied. He says, "I like helping people, I like to make people realize they're not alone, and that they have the beauty inside them, they got to let it shine."

This story proves that Alex was in a tough spot, like getting bullied, and then, when he moved, he had the courage to stand up to all of the bullies in the world.

Malala, Iqbal, Alex. They are good people who make a difference in the world. Malala, protesting about girls' rights in Pakistan, Iqbal making a change against child labor and Alex making bullies see what they did to their victims.

What gave them their "fuels" is by facing tough times in their lives. Did you ever face a problem you want to change? Well, face your problem and become a teen activist. [WL](#)

## Getting Married?

Let us know!

The Valley Press is interested in publishing engagement and wedding announcements. Send them to Valley PRESS Editor at 540 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 or e-mail [aalbair@turleyct.com](mailto:aalbair@turleyct.com). There is no charge.

## 11 Critical home inspection

Traps to be aware of before listing your Wethersfield home

**W**ETHERSFIELD - Newmarket - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale. Whether you own an old home or brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the home inspector flags these issues

for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones. To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-597-7893 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This report is courtesy of Sanam Solati Yurczyk, REALTOR®, EXIT Realty Black Rock. Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale.

# Slice of LIFE

photos by Mark Jahne

The Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum Shop held a fashion show and luncheon April 29 to benefit the shop. A full house of 135 women came to the Webb Barn to watch 17 models showcase the clothing, accessories and gifts that were all for sale in the museum that day. Wine and quiche helped to make the day enjoyable for all.



## The height of fashion at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum

**1.** Alana DiMarco was resplendent in this navy and white ensemble. **2.** Anne Guernsey's outfit was highlighted by a shawl. **3.** Barbara Franchi strolled down the aisle with a flair. **4.** The models pose as a group before heading to the show, held in the Webb Barn. **5.** Family members Aniyah Rosa, left, and Nancy Collins enjoyed the opportunity to model together. **6.** Fashion show coordinator Leslie Watson, left, greets model Renee Picard Walsh. **7.** Sisters Emily Vazzano and Dolores DiFazio donned colorful spring jackets. **8.** Sandra Ritter, left, models colorful summer wear while commentator Lynn McNamara gives the details to the audience.



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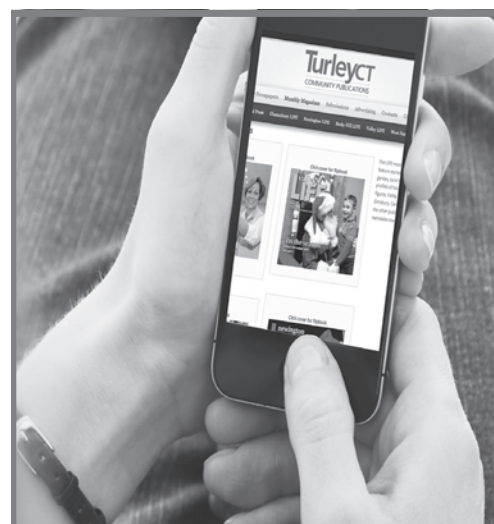
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# Events *spotlight*

## Spring Festival

May 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Heirloom Market at  
Comstock Ferre*

263 Main St.

860-257-2790

The market hosts its second annual festival with local vendors and artisans, child-friendly activities, live music, gardening talks, thousands of spring starts for the garden and an outdoor summer BBQ, as well as from-scratch baked pies and more. A portion of the proceeds will go to a local charity.

## Mayor's Charity Ball

June 2, 6 p.m.

*Wethersfield Country Club*

860-563-6762 or

*ccgreen12@yahoo.com*

This new charitable event got off to a strong start last year with a full house and returns for the second time to allow residents to celebrate their town and help those in need at the same time. The first ball raised \$16,000 that was donated to Wethersfield Social and Youth Services to support the town food bank. This year's event will benefit the weekend meals backpack program for school children, create a new initiative to assist hungry senior citizens and seed a preschool scholarship fund. Tickets are \$75 per person.



## Members' Annual Exhibit

June 3-29

*Keeney Memorial Cultural  
Center*

200 Main St.

860-667-2974 or 860-257-0245

The Wethersfield Art League is holding its annual exhibit starting with a wine and cheese reception from 4-6 p.m. June 3. Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. The art league is located at 193 Wells Road and offers classes in painting, zentangle, children's art and woodcarving, as well as a free Monday morning open painting group for members. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month from September through May at Silas Deane Middle School.

## House Tour

June 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Old Wethersfield*

860-529-7656 or

*wethersfieldhistory.org*

The Wethersfield Historical Society presents this tour that will feature several unique historic homes from many different eras. All of the featured houses will be decorated beautifully, some with period furniture and manicured gardens. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is the event's corporate sponsor. Patron tickets are \$75 and include a tour ticket and cocktail party the evening of the tour featuring an open bar and gourmet appetizers. General admission tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the event.

## Keane Foundation 5K Walk/Run

June 4, 11 a.m.

*Standish Park*

860-993-7425 or

*keanefoundation.org*

The 16th annual installment of this running event to raise money for the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center is the last of five major events taking place on Wethersfield Weekend June 2-4. Registration is \$15 if post-marked by May 31 and \$20 the day of the race. Children 10 and younger pay \$5 and the entry fee will be waived for WES Running Club members when a paid runner registers with them. Checks payable to the Richard M. Keane Foundation may be mailed to Keane Foundation 5K Walk/Run, 21 Round Hill Road, Wethersfield CT 06109.

## Bicycle Festival

June 11, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Stillman Park*

*tbrown@wethersfield.me*

The Wethersfield High School Bicycle Club presents its 4th Annual Bicycle Festival/Show/Swap Meet. This event includes all styles and vintages of bicycles. Swap, sell, or buy extra parts and bicycle-related items. There will be workshops for changing flat tires, dealing with a "problem sad bike," a carnival-like sideshow display of unusual and notorious bicycle parts, and a new mini bike rodeo safety activity for youth.



## Mikey's Place Charity Golf Classic

June 24, 11:30 a.m.

*Goodwin Park Golf Course,  
Hartford*

860-965-8551 or 860-529-2711

*mikeysplaceplayground@gmail.  
com*

This 16th annual charity golf tournament benefits Mikey's Place, a wheelchair accessible playground, as well as research into spinal muscular atrophy. The shotgun start will take place at 1 p.m. with a scramble format. The fee of \$130 per golfer includes a hot dog lunch and dinner after the tournament. Attending the dinner only costs \$35.

# June calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**2 Mayor's Charity Ball**, 6 p.m., Wethersfield Country Club, \$75 per person, 860-563-6762 or ccgreen12@yahoo.com

**3 House Tour**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Old Wethersfield, 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org

**Ventriloquist Larry Noiva**, 2 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**4 Keane Foundation 5K Walk/Run**, 11 a.m., Standish Park, 860-993-7425 or keane-foundation.org

**5 Teen Monday Funday**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, regis-

tration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**10 Tag Sale**, 8 a.m. to noon, Collier Road neighborhood

**Saturday Cinema: "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,"** 1:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**150 Prospect Coffeehouse**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or tanjam@comcast.net

**11 Bicycle Festival**, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Stillman

Park, tbrown@wethersfield.me

**13 Computer Class**, 2 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org, also June 14, 20, 21 and 27

**17 Chinese Dance Performance**, 2 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**22 Teen Potato Chip Taste-Off**, 6:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**24 Mikey's Place**

**Charity Golf Classic**, 11:30 a.m., Goodwin Golf Course, Hartford, 860-965-8551 or 860-529-2711 or mikeysplaceplayground@gmail.com

**27 Gardening Tips from the Men's Garden Club**, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

*Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.*

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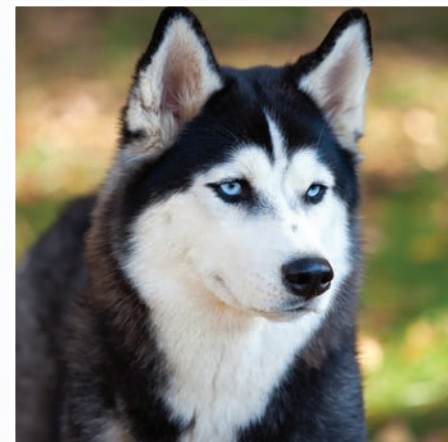


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# News roundup

## Memorial Day Parade

The town's annual Memorial Day Parade will step off at 9 a.m. May 27 from the state Department of Motor Vehicles on State Street. This year's theme is to honor all veterans and their service dogs. The parade marshals are Arthur Warren and John Garoppolo and delivering this year's address is retired commander Thomas Mahar, U.S. Navy Reserve.

After the parade, a ceremony will be held at the Village Cemetery. An essay contest was held for eighth-graders at Silas Deane Middle School asking them what Memorial Day means to them. The winning essay, written by Sam Logan, will be read as part of that ceremony.

## Free care for veterans

In celebration of Memorial Day, Wethersfield Dental Group is offering free dental care to military veterans on May 30. The treatment will include a comprehensive exam, X-rays and a regular cleaning. Veterans can schedule a half hour appointment by calling the office 860-400-3007.

## GFWC will raffle dollhouse

GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club members Carol Veklund, Joyce Blake, Joyce Brown and Jo Late finished their latest dollhouse and will be taking it to the Sturbridge Miniatures Festival June 3-4. They are selling raffle tickets for a chance to win the house for \$5 each or three for \$10.

Contact Brown at 860-789-2178 or Late at 860-666-4371 for additional information. All proceeds will be used for local scholarships and community service projects.

## Ambulance corps busy, plans EMT class

The Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association responded to 36 calls for service during the month of April. That resulted in 29 trips to the hospital including 10 basic life support transports and 19 advanced life support (paramedic level) transports. WVAA volunteers gave 972 hours of service to the town.

The association will offer a free (\$900 value)



GFWC will raffle dollhouse



Lions conduct vision checks

emergency medical technician class this summer for Wethersfield High School juniors and seniors at its 206 Prospect St. headquarters. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from June 26 through Sept. 13.

Adults can also register for this class at the \$900 fee. Call Assistant Chief Kelly Clark at 860-578-7683 for details.

## Democrats seek candidates

The Democratic Town Committee is seeking candidates to run for the Board of Education and Town Council. Any interested registered Democrat is encouraged to call 860-593-4853 or email [wethersfelddemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:wethersfelddemocrats@gmail.com).

## WECC launches website

The Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative has launched a new website full of resources for parents of children from birth to 5 years old. The address is [wethersfieldchildhood.com](http://wethersfieldchildhood.com).

Information posted on this site includes such things as kindergarten registration, signing up for youth soccer, and a listing of area preschool and day care programs.

## Lions conduct vision checks

This is the second year that the Lions Club held vision checks for all elementary school students in town. Emerson-Williams School Nurse Linda Ciarcia reached out to Joanne Charbonneau's class to find a way to thank the club.

The class encouraged the entire school to collect gently used prescription glasses and sunglasses to donate to the Lions Recycle for Sight Program. In just one week's time, students collected more than 60 eyeglasses.

## Tennis under the lights

The illuminated tennis courts at Mill Woods Park are now available for free use. New procedures

have been implemented by the town Parks & Recreation Department regarding these lights.

This year, the lights will be set on a timer to operate between 7-9 p.m., only if a newly installed photo sensor indicates darkness has set in and the user has pushed a button located on the control box at the tennis courts. Courts are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Tour the historic district

Wethersfield Historical Society walking tours are back for another season. All tours are \$5, free to WHS members and children under 16.

Reservations are recommended.

## Walk Around Old Wethersfield with Dorene

**Ciarcia** is scheduled for 6 p.m. July 6 and Sept. 14 and 10 a.m. July 8 and Sept. 16. Meet in front of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St.

**Burying Ground Tours with Martha Smart** are scheduled for 1 p.m. June 22, Sept. 7, Oct. 12 and 10 a.m. Sept. 9 and Oct. 14. Meet at the red barn in the First Church parking lot.

## Library summer reading

The Wethersfield Library teen online summer reading program, "Build a Better World," runs between June 19 and Aug. 14. Teenagers will submit books when they've finished reading them, and summer programs once they've attended them at the library, by using an online form. This will enter them into prize drawings.

Adult summer reading kicks off with an event at 6 p.m. June 20. The program ends Aug. 14. For details about either program call 860-257-2811 or email [library@wethersfieldlibrary.org](mailto:library@wethersfieldlibrary.org).

## Correction

A story in the past month's issue about an accountant and musician with the Accounting Crows had an incorrect spelling. The man's correct name is Michael Fortunato. **WL**

# Johnson Brunetti expands its space and its client base

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Other financial firms may be closing or consolidating, but Johnson Brunetti continues to grow. Business is good and the company recently expanded and renovated its office space and headquarters operation in the Putnam Park building on Great Meadow Road.

The retirement investment specialist firm now occupies 7,000 square feet. That's more than twice the previous footprint. It has nearly all of the fifth floor of the building that sits on the bank of the Connecticut River.

The previous space was gutted and staff was relocated for 90 days. They could have moved to larger quarters elsewhere but Managing Partner Joel Johnson likes having the company located in Wethersfield because of its proximity to both Hartford and the interstate highway system.

Work spaces were reconfigured to provide more space for each employee and a large amount of natural light. There are also some stand-up work stations.

The company features eight financial advisers, most of whom are certified financial planners.

"We now have six offices around the state and we're about to open a seventh," he said.

The company now boasts approximately 30 employees. He is pleased with that growth and

foresees further success.

"We're excited about the next five to 10 years. That's another reason why we made an investment in this building," he said.

Johnson is the author of five books including "The Money Map," "Forced To Retire," "The Lump Sum Payment Guide" and "Guide to Maximizing Your Retirement Income." He maintains a high profile on local media including financial advice programs at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday on WTIC Newstalk 1080.

"I'm on Channel 3 news every Sunday morning. It's all financial advice," he added.

That show, called "Better Money," will soon expand to include Saturday appearances as well. He also presents seminars all over the state.

"We do these public events all the time, two or three times a week," he said.

"There are a couple of things affecting our business," Johnson said. "In our industry, most companies aren't doing well."

On the national level, the business climate is improving. But not in Connecticut. Businesses are leaving the state and taking valuable jobs with them. Employees are being forced to retire before they planned or are ready to do so.

"It's gotten better here," he added, but this state is still lagging behind the rest of the country.

"It's an interesting business. Most of our cli-

Joel Johnson stands by the window of his corner office on the fifth floor of the Putnam Park office building. It overlooks Old Wethersfield and Interstate 91.

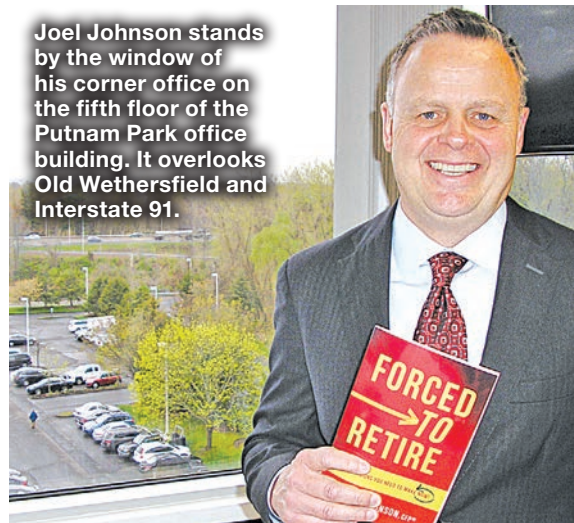


Photo by Mark Jahne

ents are working class. We have a unique process called the Money Map Retirement Review," Johnson said.

It's a complete plan designed to aid those who are retired or ready to retire. Components include a retirement income plan and risk analysis of one's existing investment portfolio.

"We consolidate that into a one-page financial plan," he said.

Johnson said most clients clearly understand the steps they need to take after only two or three meetings with their financial adviser.

He advises against jumping from one approach to the next. Johnson is a firm believer that the more frequently a person changes investment strategy, the more mistakes that person will make. **WL**

To learn more call 860-372-4800 or see [johnson-brunetti.com](http://johnson-brunetti.com).

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# People notes

**Matthew Burwell** was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society at Becker College.

**Alexandra Hoffman** was inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for the field of communication, at Eastern Connecticut State University.

**Madelyn O'Connor** was named to the dean's list at Colby-Sawyer College.

**Ann Brin Piccione** graduated summa cum laude from Northeastern University with a bachelor of science degree in health sciences and a minor in business. She was selected by the Northeastern Office of Student Life to be inducted into the Huntington 100, which annually recognizes 100 Northeastern students who have made outstanding contributions to the university. She volunteered for

five years at Children's Hospital in Boston, volunteered in Uganda, studied abroad in Ireland, was a peer advisor on campus and was on the executive council of Sigma Kappa sorority. She was recruited for, and decided to join, the Teach for America Corps.

**Sierra Colon** received the Cesar Chavez Distinguished Service Award from Eastern Connecticut State University.

**Jessica Cebelius** was awarded the Biology Research Award: Quality Performance on a Research Project at Eastern Connecticut State University.

**Christopher Shimwell** was awarded the Academic Excellence Award/Top Academic Achiever in Each Class (freshman) at Eastern Connecticut State University.

**John O'Brien** was inducted into

Lamda Pi Eta, the honor society of the National Association of Communication, in the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College.

**Rachel Silva** was inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society at Eastern Connecticut State University.

**Caitlin Gray** and **Nicole Varca** were inducted into Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology. They are students at Emmanuel College.

**Victoria Brown** and **Veronica Pita** received nursing scholarships from the Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Professional Nurses Association.

**Ashley Fontana** was named to the dean's list and graduated with a master's degree in social work from the University of Connecticut.

**Brianna Godlewsk** was honored at Union College's annual Prize Day celebration. She received the William E. Lasnik Prize, given to a premedical student on the basis of scholarship and character.

**Jason Renaud** was named to the dean's list at Belmont University.

**Gina Lanzano** was welcomed into the Mortar Board National Honor Society at Western New England University.

**Kaylee Kolodziejczyk** was inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha (AMA), the national marketing honor society, at Eastern Connecticut State University.

**Joseph Zocco** was inducted into the Delta Omega chapter of Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society for business administration, at Eastern Connecticut State University. **WL**

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# Juried Arts Award Winners

**S**even Wethersfield High School students received recognition from the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards, a professionally juried event. This year there were close to 3,000 submissions.

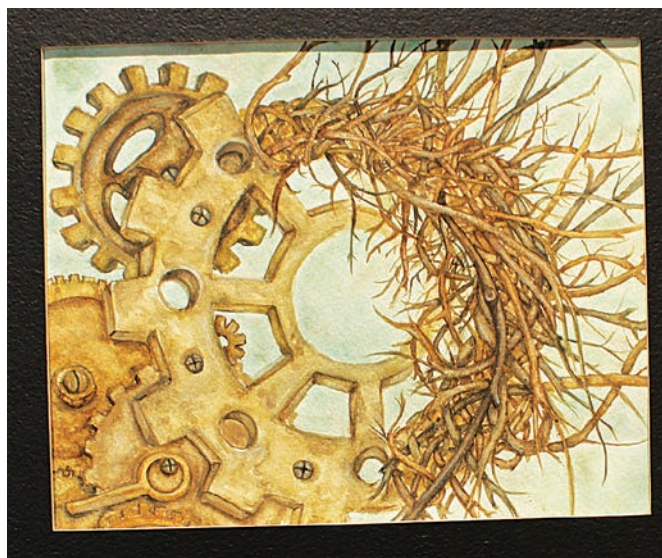
Submissions were hung in the Slipe Gallery at the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford. Gold Key winners go on to the national competition and work selected for this show will be displayed in May in New York City along with an awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

The WHS winners are: Erin Robles, "Don't Look," mixed media, Gold Key; Megan Tonucci,

"Tigger Deconstructed," sculpture, Silver Key; Kady Allen, "Gear," painting, honorable mention; Lillian Lee, "Self Portrait Edit," digital art, honorable mention and Erin Robles, "Untitled," print-making, honorable mention. **WL**



"Tigger Deconstructed" by Megan Tonucci



"Gear" by Kady Allen



"Don't Look" by Erin Robles

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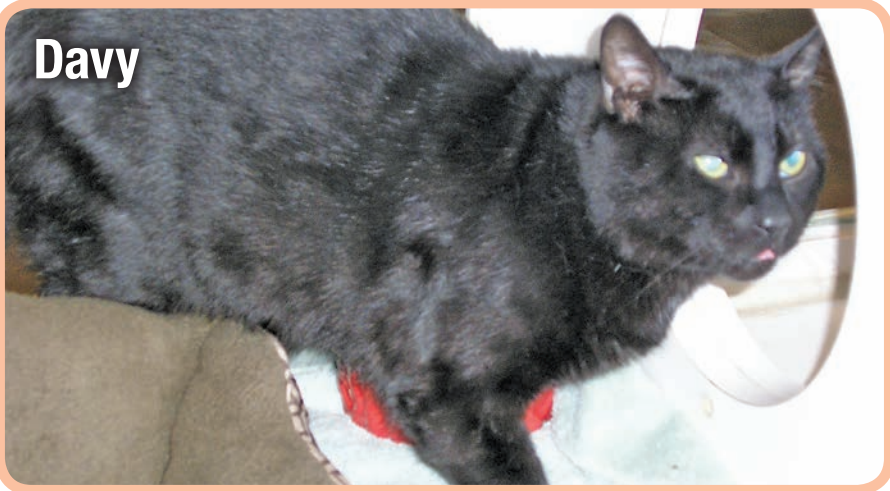
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Bella



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*Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at [cthumane.org](http://cthumane.org). Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption.*

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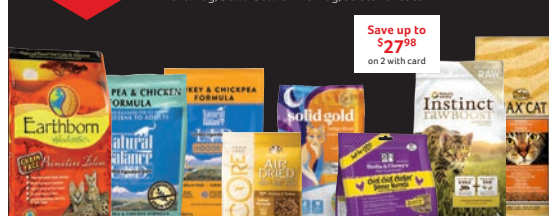


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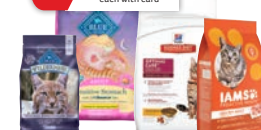
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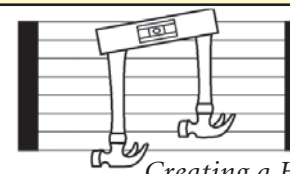
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The advertisement for NicoLock features a photograph of a landscaped area with stone pavers, a fire pit, and lounge chairs. The NicoLock logo is in the top right corner, with the tagline 'paving stones &amp; retaining walls' and 'paver-shield'. A yellow starburst graphic in the bottom left corner announces a '10% OFF' discount on NicoLock pavers and retaining walls, with conditions: 'In Stock/Full Pallets Only. Restrictions apply. Expires 7/31/17'. Below the photo, a list of products is shown: 'Walkways • Patios • Retaining Walls • Firepits • Decorative Stone • Mulch • Topsoil'. The Cedar Mountain Stone &amp; Mulch logo is at the bottom, featuring a mountain graphic. Contact information for Cedar Mountain is provided: '1943 Berlin Turnpike • WETHERSFIELD 860.563.9200 www.cedarmountainstoneandmulch.com'. A Facebook link is also included: 'Like us on Facebook'. At the bottom, it states 'One of Greater Hartford's Largest Retail Distributors of Landscape Products'.

# Letters

## Slavery still exists

### To the Editor:

I am a high school student at the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering. Recently I had to research a topic for a civics project and would like to raise awareness on behalf of an issue that affects 20 to 30 million people worldwide.

Human trafficking happens right here and now. This is when a person is taken and brought to another location, where he/she may end up becoming sexually abused, sold to another trafficker, forced to beg on the streets, forced into labor, or become a victim to many other horrible deeds.

More than 50 percent of trafficking victims are children and 80 percent of them are women.

In Connecticut only, there have been a total of 230 cases in the year of 2016. Raymond Bechard, the author of "The Berlin Turnpike" (a true story about sexual exploitation in U.S. motels, more specifically on the turnpike) raised awareness some years ago.

Since then, not much has changed, human trafficking still happens. It's time we become aware of what is happening around us.

Flight attendants are currently being trained to spot an unusual situation. Air transportation is the fastest and most popular of trafficking transportations.

So if you see something, say something, because you might just save someone. All over the globe people are trying to make a change and it starts with you.

*Katharina Cacioli*

## Remembering Larry Spellacy

### To the Editor:

Wethersfield lost one of its best citizens and friends this month. Big and big-hearted Larry Spellacy has died.

He gave his great heart to Wethersfield and Wethersfield gave its heart to him. He was the chairman and parade marshal for the Memorial Day Parade, which he worked hard and successfully to preserve as a town tradition. He was Wethersfield's honoree in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

He was a respected and beloved commander of the American Legion post. Our family was lucky enough to be among those he served and befriended as a Eucharistic minister visiting the homebound for the Church of the Incarnation. Every other Sunday night our phone would ring and it was Larry telling us what time he'd be stopping in to see us on Monday morning.

He'd bound up the ramp that is now at our front door, energetic and happy, bringing joy to our house. We looked forward to those times with him. We will miss him always at our house and so will Wethersfield.

*Joyce and Gilman Rossignol*

## He survived the electric chair

### To the Editor:

I want to thank you for printing my letter regarding Griswoldville signs. I received several phone calls and mailings of the article congratulating my efforts.

I have another interesting and true story for you to print about the Wethersfield Prison electric chair. Back in 1958 I was a salesman calling on the chief plant engineer of the Wethersfield State Prison located on State Street. His office was in a separate building within the prison walls.

The plant engineer offered to show me the electric chair. He called two guards who opened a steel door to another room. There stood "Old Sparky," their name for the electric chair.

The guards grabbed me, threw me into the chair and pulled a big leather strap across my chest. The three stood there laughing at me. I didn't think it was so funny.

In 1960, "Mad Dog" Taborsky was the last person to be electrocuted in that chair. When the prison closed the electric chair was moved to a storage room up in Enfield. So I can truly say that I was the only man to be seated in the electric chair and lived to tell about it.

*Richard Lasher*

*Honorary Mayor of Griswoldville*

## Grateful for donors

### To the Editor:

The Griswoldville Preservation Association is working with the town of Wethersfield to replace two display signs in Griswoldville. One sign helps to define the central area of the neighborhood in the southwest corner of town. The other will be in Mill Woods Park; it tells and maps the history of mills along what is now Goff Brook, between the reservoir and the park.

Before undertaking the replacements, a fundraiser was needed. This is a thank you to all the generous Griswoldville residents who answered the neighborhood fundraiser with donations that are paying for the replacement signs.

Identifying the historic Griswoldville neighborhood and conveying its story as an early industrial center of mills that contributed to the success of Wethersfield maintains that successful continuity.

The fact that hundreds of people donated funds, with many contributing way more than the \$10 requested, demonstrates their fondness for, and interest in, Wethersfield. They walk the walk by writing the check. Many thanks.

*Martha Mayer*

*Griswoldville Preservation Association*



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• Rocky Hill Life • Wethersfield Life • Glastonbury Life • Newington Life

# Editorial

## MDC consumer advocate is a good idea

**S**tate Rep. Gary Byron of Newington recently co-sponsored legislation that would create a new independent consumer advocate, appointed by the state consumer counsel, to represent Metropolitan District Commission customers.

The bill was recently signed into law by Gov. Dannel Malloy.

This is an excellent idea, but it should be only the first step in providing oversight of this unique central Connecticut public utility.

Unlike the electric, cable television, Internet, telephone and natural gas utilities, the MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the General Assembly to provide water and sewer services, primarily to eight member communities including Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

It is, in effect, a monopoly.

Customers in those member communities cannot go anywhere else for potable water and sewer services.

The MDC is their only choice.

The district is run by a 29-member board of directors appointed by either the governor, legislature or local town councils. Nearly all of them, if not all, are politically connected.

That raises questions about how responsive they are, or need to be, to the general public. Chances are the political system that appointed them is not going to be too critical of its own crowd.

This past year there was much fuss about a proposal for the MDC to provide a high volume of water to a proposed Niagara Bottling plant in Bloomfield.

District residents worried that it might deplete the water supply to dangerous levels and took issue with their own water rates rising, even slightly, when Niagara would have been offered a much reduced rate.

The most recent controversy has to do with Hartford's fiscal crisis and the possibility that the city may default on its MDC sewer payments.

So, the district decided to put an additional cost burden on the towns – in addition to the ad valorem tax towns already pay that rose again this year – and demand that the member towns each pay a significant numbers of dollars to cover Hartford's share in the event of a default.

Those seven towns objected and, in the end, legislation was approved, that protects the MDC and, in turn, its member communities, from financial harm if Hartford cannot pay its share of the cost.

The new legislation dictates that state grant funding be withheld from any defaulting member town and used to pay the MDC bill.

This is an important step, but it's sad that it was required at all as the MDC attempted to pass the buck for one city's crisis – and, in effect, its own as a result of poor planning and management – rather than seeking a more sustainable solution at the outset when Hartford's coming crisis became apparent.

Controversies like these can perhaps be avoided in the future if there is greater consumer oversight of the district's operations.

The MDC needs to become more sensitive not just to local governments, but to the needs of the businesses and homeowners who use and pay for its services every day. **WL**

# wethersfield LIFE

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BY MARK DIXON  
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



## Going into the 2017 Hurricane Season...

**T**he Atlantic Hurricane Season of 2016 featured 15 named storms, 7 reached hurricane status and of those 4 became MAJOR hurricanes. Last year was a bit more active than normal, which was accurately forecast. An "average season" includes 12 Tropical Storms (wind 39mph or greater), 6 Hurricanes (wind 74mph

or greater) and 3 Major Hurricanes (111mph or greater).

When it comes to naming, there are 6 lists used in rotation for the Atlantic Basin (including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean)... alternating gender, starting at the top of the alphabet. Two from last year, Matthew and Otto, have been retired by the WMO (World Meteorological Organization, a

group of international scientists) due to their deadly or destructive nature as they both wreaked havoc through the Caribbean. They'll be replaced with Martin and Owen, when the list is reused in 2022.

The Atlantic season runs from June 1st through November 30th ... although in April, Arlene formed. This is only the 2nd time in the sat-

ellite era for one to do so in that month. Early outlooks are calling for a slightly less active 2017, due to cooler-than-normal Atlantic sea surface temperatures and potential/slow El Nino development.

Regardless of how many storms develop, the bigger issue: if and where they will make landfall – something that is extremely difficult to forecast. **WL**



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Summer *Living*

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slumpby Nancy Thompson  
*LIFE Staff*

The lazy, hazy days of summer. They're fun, except that all that laziness could easily slide into boring. No worries, though. We have lots of great ideas to inject some adventure into one's life.

## In the trees

## Storrs Adventure Park

There are ropes courses with a twist.

Visitors navigate through platforms in the trees – connected by bridges made of cable, wood, rope and zip lines – that form aerial trails. They're color-coded by difficulty, ranging from beginner to advanced.

Climbers receive a safety orientation and wear climbing harnesses at all times. Guides are on hand throughout the courses.

Say "Storrs" and most people will think of the University of Connecticut. But it is also home to the Storrs Adventure Park, a forest climbing park where visitors can



Zippering above the surface of the water is one of many adventures at Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park in Portland

experience adventure in the trees.

In all, the park has 15 zip lines, four difficulty levels and more than 100 bridges.

Tickets are available for two- and three-hour admissions, for groups of 10 or more, and for two-hour birthday parties. Prices vary by age and activity and range from \$22 for two hours for a college student with ID to \$47 for a three-hour climb for visitors age 12 and older.

The park is open daily through September 4, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8

p.m., Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Storrs Adventure Park is located at 2007 Storrs Road, Storrs. More information at Storrsadventurepark.com, 860-946-0606 or info@storrsadventurepark.com

## Nomads Outdoor Adventure

Nomads Outdoor Adventure offers another treetop experience.

The South Windsor park, which

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Tickets are available for three-hour sessions and range from \$28 to \$38 depending on age.

A night climb/twilight special is available Sunday through Thursday during the park's last two hours at a discounted rate.

During the summer, the park is open daily from 10 a.m. until dark.

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Learn to fly through the air, with or without the greatest of ease, at the Fearless Flyers Academy in Mystic. The school also offers classes in trampoline gymnastics, aerial fitness and a variety of aerial fabric activities.

Two-hour trapeze lessons, the academy's most popular, teach students how to perform many of the tricks they've seen at a circus and is available to everyone, from novices to accomplished gymnasts.

The classes are open to everyone from children age 6 and older. No prior experience is necessary, but there is a 180-pound limit.

Students in trampoline gymnastics classes learn proper techniques and skills, using safety-harness systems, crash mats and other safety equipment seldom found in traditional trampoline parks.

Again, no experience is necessary, and the classes are open to anyone six and older.

Aerial fitness classes focus on strength, conditioning and flexibility in the areas that aerialists use most, especially shoulders, back and core muscles. Other classes include aerial fabrics, aerial static trapeze and aerial hoops. There's also a class that teaches students how to become a catcher, the person who snags the trapeze flyer in the air.

Fearless Flyers Academy is located at 800 Flanders Road, Mystic. More

information at [info@fearlesstrapeze.com](mailto:info@fearlesstrapeze.com), 860-245-4154 or [info@FearlessTrapeze.com](mailto:info@FearlessTrapeze.com).

### Flight Trampoline Park

Flight Trampoline Park in New Britain has more than 13,000 square feet with 31 trampolines, including a dedicated area gives children 6 and younger. It offers open jump sessions, special activities include Club Flight with lasers, and dodgeball.

Mondays from 4 to 9 p.m. are designated as family nights, and Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. are set aside for visitors with special needs. Admission fees vary by activity and age, with discounts on family nights and special needs nights.

Flight Trampoline Park is located at 140 Production Court, New Britain. More information at [flighttrampolinepark.com/Hartford](http://flighttrampolinepark.com/Hartford), 860-505-8218 or [hartford.info@flighttrampolinepark.com](mailto:hartford.info@flighttrampolinepark.com).

### Soarin' Indoors

This Manchester attraction has two aerial ropes courses, one that is 2.5 feet off the ground and another 12 feet up. Both have similar challenges, such as rope bridges, cargo nets, swings and zip lines. Young guests, who must be tall enough to reach 60 inches while standing flat on the floor, will negotiate a series of increasingly difficult challenges.

Harnesses and cables are used for safety, and trained guides walk around the course to offer help when needed.

Soarin' Indoors has a two-story playscape in the course room that is available for anyone climbing on the adventure course and also as a separate purchase for younger guests who



Riding an oversized tube down three whitewater rapids is only part of the fun at Farmington River Tubing in New Hartford

aren't yet ready for the courses. The playscape is divided into a toddler area for children age 1 to 4 and a regular play area for older children.

The facility is open for individuals, groups, corporate events and private parties.

Admission costs \$13.95 for children 12 and younger and \$18.95 for visitors 13 and older.

Soarin' Indoors is open Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

Soarin' Indoors is located at 422 North Main Street, Manchester.

More information at [soarindoors.com](http://soarindoors.com), 860-645-1595.

## In and on the water

### Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park

Ever thought about jumping off a cliff? You can do it – safely – at this adventure center in one of the biggest

brownstone quarries in the world.

The park, near the Connecticut River in Portland, also offers 14 zip lines and an extreme rope swing as well as swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, wall-climbing, wakeboarding and, for certified divers, scuba diving.

The cliff heights vary, so beginners can immerse themselves gradually. The "ultimate extreme rope swing" can launch adventuresome visitors more than 20 feet out into the water. The more challenging wall climbs go up more than 70 feet, but there also are a few relatively easy climbs for the less skilled or less brave.

The park offers three wakeboard runs, two for beginners and one dedicated to more advanced riders. Kayaks, paddle boards, and other human-powered vehicles and toys are available to rent. The park has also become a popular destination for area dive centers to bring students, and for qualified divers to train and use

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Camps run weekly starting June 26 thru August 25 (Sign up today as space is limited)

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for ages 11-14

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for ages 6-14

### West Hartford Hockey Camp

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The West Hartford Hockey Camp is dedicated to developing fundamental hockey skills through well organized and enjoyable hockey activities. Drills are focused on properly preparing each player for success by working on correct techniques and building confidence.

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## Summer *Living*

underwater platforms. Admission fees depend on activities, with \$26 for a general swimming pass, \$36 for an adventure sports pass, and \$46 for a wakeboard adventure sports pass.

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park is located at 161 Brownstone Avenue, Portland. More information at [Brownstonepark.com](http://Brownstonepark.com), 866-860-0208.

### Tubing on the Farmington River

The idea of floating on an oversized tube doesn't sound like an adventure, but Farmington River Tubing's 2.5-mile ride through three sets of white-water rapids is enough to get riders' hearts thumping.

The \$20 fee, which must be paid in cash, includes the rental of a specially designed tube, a life jacket and a shuttle bus ride from the take-out point back to the starting point. Riders can tube again the same day for an additional \$10. Changing houses and restrooms are available.

It's a good idea to check ahead to get information about hours and river conditions.

Hours vary depending on weather and other factors. Tubing is tentatively available through the middle of June weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., depending on weather. The attraction is open from the middle of June through late August daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and late August through Labor Day weekends

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays, dependent on weather and staffing, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. After Labor Day through the middle of September, riders must call for hours and river conditions.

Farmington River Tubing is located at 92 Main Street, New Hartford. More information at [Farmingtonrivertubing.com](http://Farmingtonrivertubing.com), 860-693-6465.

### In the extreme

#### Empower Leadership & Adventure Center

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center uses terms such as "special agent," heart-pumping, extreme, exhilarating and adrenaline-inducing to describe the activities at its Middletown facility.

The zip line canopy adventure includes a fully guided half-mile journey 40 to 75 feet up in the tree tops, five zip lines ranging from 200 to 650 feet long, two adventure sky bridges and two high ropes climbing challenges.

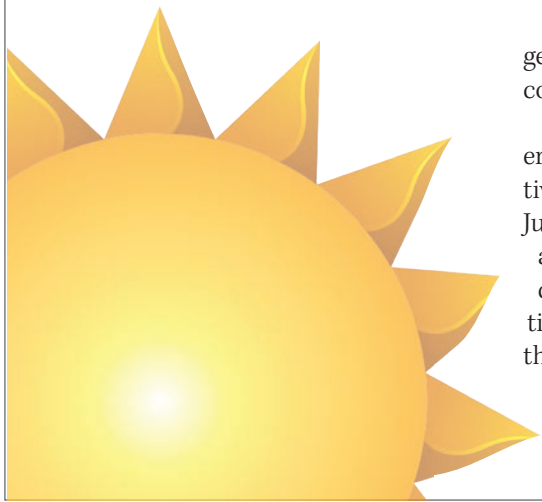
Participants in the map-and-

compass scavenger hunt will piece together clues, find hidden challenges and and overcome obstacles.

Commando rappelling, a special operations adventure and the "Survivor 101 adventure" add an extra element to participants' experiences. Other activities include partner-assisted tree climbing, a four-hour tree-top zip line adventure, an aerial discovery adventure combining zip lines and tree-climbing, a deluxe adventure that combines three challenges into one, parties, and group outings for adults and youths.

The office is open daily during the summer from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. The earliest tour usually leaves between 9 and 9:30 a.m., and the latest tour leaves around 5 or 6 p.m. In the fall, the schedule switches to Tuesday through Sunday.

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center is located at 2011 South Main Street, Middletown. More information at [Leadershipsports.com](http://Leadershipsports.com), 860-638-4754 or [Office@leadership-sports.com](mailto:Office@leadership-sports.com). **WL**



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# Summer *Living*

## Spark a new interest

by Allie Rivera  
Staff Writer

The summer season is the time to step out of comfort zones

**W**ith the warm days of summer approaching, some may find themselves yearning to break out of their typical routine to try something new.

In addition to often simply being enjoyable, trying new activities can also have positive benefits on mental and emotional well-being. According to a post

on Psychology Today by Dr. Alex Lickerman, breaking out of a comfort zone often requires a level of courage and forces participants to grow.

For others still, looking to try new things can allow people to create experiences they may have always wanted to try, by picking up a paintbrush or spatula, flying in a hot air balloon or riding a horse.

### Culinary classes

For those who wish to experience something new but wish to stay a bit closer to their comfort zone, Sur La Table in Canton offers a variety of hands-on cooking classes every day throughout the year.

"It's really geared toward home cooks just for a new experience, maybe to try some new techniques," culinary lead Trace Alford said. "They're enjoyable, they're fun and they're a great learning experience."

The classes range in topics from Pizza on the Grill and Exploring Italy to baking courses Easy as Pie

and French Croissants 101.

"It's a great way to try new things if you aren't familiar with certain cuisines," Alford said. "A lot of people aren't sure about the Thai classes, but most of them then are very impressed because they never realized that it's not as difficult as they thought."

In addition to learning a new skill in the classes, Alford said that he has seen people start to treat the class as a social bonding time.

"A lot of people come for the social component," he said. "There's definitely bonding that happens. I think there are some who even meet in the class and then agree to come to another class together."

### Work of art

While the art of cooking is one arena to explore,



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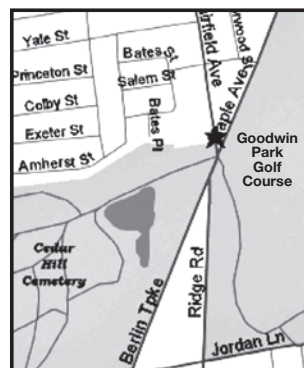
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# Summer *Living*



this region also has a variety of art for people to try.

"It's great to try just for the new experience," Farmington Valley Arts Center board member and artist in residence Carol Kaplan said. "We really have something for everybody."

The center offers a variety of classes in different mediums ranging from beginner levels to advanced techniques.

"We have a few exploration-type classes which are for people who think, 'Gee, I wonder if I really like clay. I'll take a couple classes just to see what it's about,'" Kaplan explained. "We also have folks who've had some experience and they want to hone their skills and take it to the next level. It really is something for everyone in a place that can be as rigorous as you want."

The Farmington Valley Arts Center has 18 studios where artists

create on a daily basis and Kaplan encourages people to go see what is being made.

"You can come to appreciate art, you can make art or you can watch someone creating it," she said.

The center also offers small classrooms where students can get direct instruction and feedback on their work, but according to Kaplan, it is the atmosphere created there that sets this space apart.

"For many people it's difficult to even get the process started," she said. "You have to feel that it's a safe place for that to happen, and we work to do that."

In many instances, Kaplan said that she has seen new students breathe a sigh of relief the first time they pick up a paintbrush.

"You can almost feel like this exhale," she said. "I think in this increasingly screen- and tech-filled

world, just to put your hands in clay, that tactile experience, is very valuable."

## Horseback riding

"We have some people come who just want to check it off their bucket list," said Sharon Morin of Hillside Stable in Glastonbury. "A lot of people that haven't ridden before, even the older ones, say it's something they've always wanted to do."

Horseback riding at Hillside Stable is an option for people of all ages and any experience level.

"There's not really too much they need to know beforehand," Morin said. "They need to come with boots with heels and long pants, and we provide the helmets."

Hillside Stable is a small, family-run business. Morin said that her two daughters and niece run the stable, teach lessons and encourage people to try the activity if they never have before.

"A lot of people really enjoy it," Morin said. "Everybody here is friendly and patient, and it's always good to try a new thing."

## Adult education

Those looking to try something new but are unsure what exactly is available to them need look no further than their local adult education programs.

"We have something for everyone," Ruth Kozlowski, enrichment program coordinator for West Hartford Adult Education, said. "We have ongoing classes and we just announced a lot of day trips coming up."

Through West Hartford Adult Education, people can take classes in anything ranging from yoga to movie

discussions to cookie decorating.

"One of our more popular ones is an Asian market tour and dumpling workshop," Kozlowski said. "One of our instructors takes people to a local Asian supermarket and afterwards they go back to where her husband and she own a tai chi academy and make dumplings."

Those looking to have a one-day experience can peruse the organization's variety of day trips, including an upcoming Titanic History tour in New York City June 3.

"They'll be seeing all these historic buildings related to people who were on the Titanic," Kozlowski explained.

Other upcoming trips include Saratoga horse racing, a tour of the Hudson Valley wineries and a Narragansett Bay Lighthouse cruise.

Regardless of what new activity is explored, people are encouraged to try something new.

"You never know if you'll find out that you really love something," Morin said. **WL**

*Hillside Stable is located at 524 Bell St., Glastonbury. Call 860-748-1894 or visit online at [www.hillsidestable.net](http://www.hillsidestable.net).*

*Sur La Table is located at 110 Albany Turnpike #609, Canton. Call 860-693-9560 or visit online at [www.sur-latable.com](http://www.sur-latable.com).*

*The Farmington Valley Arts Center is located at 25 Arts Center Lane, Avon. Call 860-678-1867 or visit online at [www.artsfvac.org](http://www.artsfvac.org).*

*West Hartford Adult Education is located at 50 South Main St., West Hartford. Call 860-561-6900 or visit online at [www.whlifelearn.org](http://www.whlifelearn.org).*

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# Summer *Living*

## Fun with food

Eat your way through summer



Every day this summer can be a culinary celebration. From apple strudel and blueberry muffins to veggie burgers and watermelon, there is a day set aside to recognize a wide variety of foods. You can honor some or all of these foods by incorporating them into your diet each day. Try something new. Prepare a memorable meal. For instance, on July 3, serve fried clams with a side of beans and chocolate wafers for dessert. Organize a party with everyone's favorite cheese June 4, perhaps sipping some cognac with it. On August 18, celebrate with fajitas and ice cream pie. Don't forget to post pictures on social media.

### June

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month  
National Candy Month  
National Country Cooking Month  
National Dairy Month  
National Iced Tea Month  
National Papaya Month  
National Soul Food Month

- 1 National Olive Day
- 1 National Hazelnut Cake Day
- 2 National Rotisserie Chicken Day
- 2 National Rocky Road Day
- 2 National Doughnut Day
- 3 National Chocolate Macaroon Day
- 3 National Egg Day
- 4 National Cheese Day
- 4 National Cognac Day
- 5 National Veggie Burger Day
- 5 National Gingerbread Day
- 5 National Moonshine Day
- 6 National Applesauce Cake Day
- 7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day
- 8 National Name Your Poison Day
- 9 National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day
- 10 National Herbs and Spices Day

- 10 National Iced Tea Day
- 10 National Black Cow Day
- 10 National Rosé Day
- 11 National Corn on the Cob Day
- 11 National German Chocolate Cake Day
- 12 National Peanut Butter Cookie Day
- 12 National Jerky Day
- 14 National Strawberry Shortcake Day
- 14 National Bourbon Day
- 15 National Lobster Day
- 16 National Fudge Day
- 17 National Apple Strudel Day
- 17 National Eat Your Vegetables Day
- 17 National Cherry Tart Day
- 18 National Turkey Lovers' Day
- 19 National Martini Day
- 20 National Ice Cream Soda Day
- 20 National Vanilla Milkshake Day
- 21 National Peaches 'n' Cream Day
- 22 National Chocolate Eclair Day
- 22 National Onion Rings Day
- 23 National Pecan Sandies Day
- 24 National Pralines Day
- 25 National Catfish Day
- 25 National Strawberry Parfait Day
- 26 National Chocolate Pudding Day
- 29 National Almond Buttercrunch Day
- 30 National Bomb Pop Day (that red, white and blue Popsicle)

### July

National Baked Bean Month  
National Culinary Arts Month  
National Grilling Month  
National Horseradish Month  
National Hot Dog Month  
National Ice Cream Month  
National July Belongs to Blueberries Month

- 1 National Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day
- 1 National Gingersnap Day
- 2 National Anisette Day
- 3 National Fried Clam Day
- 3 National Eat Your Beans Day
- 3 National Chocolate Wafer Day

- 4 National Barbecued Spareribs Day
- 4 National Caesar Salad Day
- 5 National Apple Turnover Day

- 5 National Graham Cracker Day
- 6 National Fried Chicken Day
- 7 National Strawberry Sundae Day
- 7 National Macaroni Day
- 8 National Chocolate with Almonds Day
- 9 National Sugar Cookie Day
- 10 National Piña Colada Day
- 11 National Rainier Cherry Day
- 11 National Blueberry Muffin Day
- 11 National Mojito Day
- 12 National Pecan Pie Day
- 12 Eat Your Jello Day
- 13 National French Fry Day
- 13 National Beans 'n' Franks Day
- 14 National Grand Marnier Day
- 14 National Mac and Cheese Day
- 15 National Strawberry Rhubarb Day
- 15 National Tapioca Pudding Day
- 16 National Corn Fritters Day
- 16 National Ice Cream Day
- 17 National Peach Ice Cream Day
- 18 National Sour Candy Day
- 18 National Caviar Day
- 19 National Daiquiri Day
- 19 National Hotdog Day
- 20 National Lollipop Day
- 21 National Junk Food Day
- 22 National Penuche Fudge Day
- 23 National Vanilla Ice Cream Day
- 24 National Tequila Day
- 25 National Hot Fudge Sundae Day
- 26 National Bagelfest Day
- 26 National Coffee Milkshake Day
- 27 National Scotch Day
- 27 National Crème Brûlée Day
- 27 National Chili Dog Day
- 28 National Milk Chocolate Day
- 29 National Lasagna Day
- 29 National Chicken Wing Day
- 30 National Cheesecake Day
- 31 National Raspberry Cake Day

### August

National Catfish Month  
National Peach Month  
National Coffee Month  
National Goat Cheese Month

- 1 National Raspberry Cream Pie Day
- 2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
- 3 National Watermelon Day
- 3 National Grab Some Nuts Day
- 4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
- 5 National Oyster Day
- 5 National Jamaican Patty Day
- 5 National Mustard Day
- 5 Mead Day
- 6 National Root Beer Float Day
- 7 National Raspberries 'n' Cream Day
- 8 National Frozen Custard Day
- 9 National Rice Pudding Day
- 10 National S'mores Day
- 11 National Raspberry Bombe Day
- 12 National Julienne Fries Day
- 13 National Prosecco Day
- 13 National Filet Mignon Day
- 14 National Creamsicle Day
- 15 National Lemon Meringue Pie Day
- 16 National Rum Day
- 18 National Fajita Day
- 18 National Ice Cream Pie Day
- 19 National Soft Ice Cream Day
- 20 National Chocolate Pecan Pie Day
- 21 National Spumoni Day
- 22 National Bao Day (small Chinese steamed buns with filling)
- 22 National Pecan Torte Day
- 23 National Sponge Cake Day
- 24 National Peach Pie Day
- 24 National Waffle Day
- 25 National Whiskey Sour Day
- 25 National Banana Split Day
- 26 National Cherry Popsicle Day
- 27 National Pots de Creme Day
- 28 National Cherry Turnovers Day
- 29 National Chop Suey Day
- 30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day
- 31 National Trail Mix Day

*Compiled by Lynn Woike, LIFE Staff*  
*Primary source: National Day Calendar*



# Summer *Living*

## Suitcase smarts

Tips from travelers  
on how to pack

by **Alicia B. Smith**  
*Associate Editor*

**S**ummer is the season to pack on up and hit the road for sunny destinations, mountainous destination or theme park destinations. It sounds simple enough — pack some sunscreen, an extra pair of comfortable shoes and go.

The reality is travel can be a nightmare, packing can be worse and just getting to the destination can be exhausting. We talked to some travelers who are on the go regularly and asked them for some tips on how to make things easier.

**Keith Griffin**  
*Researcher/Writer U.S. News  
& World Report automotive website*  
I'm currently not traveling as much,

but here is the one thing that was my travel tip: pack breakfast. I used to travel a lot to the West Coast covering automotive news for places like The Boston Globe and CarGurus.com, among others.

Without fail, I'd be wide-awake by 4 a.m. with scheduled breakfast three or four hours later. So, I always made sure to have instant oatmeal packets or a protein bar (plus a plastic spoon) in my carry-on bag. It made sure my day got off to a healthy start instead of munching on minibar M&Ms. It also allowed me more time to get work done, too, because I didn't need to leave my room in search of breakfast in the early morning.

**Melissa Albright**  
*Vice President  
Wethersfield Travel*

Whenever I'm off and have to pack, whether it's just for me or for whole family, I always have a list started days before I even begin packing. I have a basket of travel items in the closet including travel size toiletries, stain sticks, Ziploc bags, et cetera, that I'll go through first and grab what I need. I'm a fan of the Packing Pro app, which allows you to create customized lists based on the type of trip (Disney, beach, weekend, camping). With a list I'm more apt to feel like I didn't forget anything when I get on my way.

I always make sure I have my drawstring laundry bag to put all our

dirty laundry in. It's a good size and can hold about a week's worth of laundry for my whole family. Big or small, having a spot to put your dirty laundry keeps your hotel room somewhat organized. These are some [often forgotten] items I share with families with young kids that are going on a beach vacation: night light, crib sheet, swim diapers, container to fill up milk at buffet restaurant, Thermos to keep milk cold or to keep hot water for formula bottles, Ziploc bags or small containers to stock up at the breakfast buffet for easy accessible snacks during the day, painter's tape and binder clips/clothes pins to cover outlets, pin up wires and secure blanket to stroller for sun protection when it's windy. **WL**

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